



KITSAP COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Kitsap County to hold open houses on nearshore assessment work for Hood Canal

From Foulweather Bluff near Hansville to the Kitsap/Mason County line, teams of researchers will be walking along the 66 miles of saltwater beaches of west Kitsap County's Hood Canal from now until September, collecting important data on nearshore habitat.

Headed by Kitsap County's Environmental Programs Division, the "West Kitsap Hood Canal Nearshore Assessment" invites people to learn more about this exciting project at two open houses in June and July. Both meetings will be held from 4-7pm.

June 24, Driftwood Key Club House, 37583 Vista Key Dr. NE, Hansville

July 16, Scenic Beach State Park, Seabeck

Along with updated information on the progress of the assessment work, the open houses will offer opportunities to learn about our marine shoreline environment by providing resources to landowners on the functions, values and nature of their shoreline, and to provide landowners with stewardship activities for preserving and restoring private and public marine shorelines and estuaries.

Researchers will be walking the shoreline collecting data on both natural and man-made features using a GPS unit and camera. Occasionally, use of a boat will be required. The information gathered from the field work will provide the best available science on the characteristics of the Hood Canal shoreline, continuing a similar assessment completed last summer for East Kitsap. Work will be done at low tide and data collected below the high tide mark.

Informational postcards have been mailed to waterfront property owners.

Additional project information can be found online at
<http://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/nr/nearshore/default.htm>

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