

For Immediate Release
December 10, 2018

Carly Vester, Communications Specialist
Telephone: 253-514-0187
Email: carly@harborwildwatch.org

GIG HARBOR, WA – Harbor WildWatch is excited to announce the guest speakers for their 2019 science-social series, Cocktails & Fishtales.

Cocktails & Fishtales is a science-social series for ages 21 and over. Held once a month, each event features a speaker on an ecological topic at either Gig Harbor Taproom (3155 Harborview Drive) or Ocean5 (5268 Point Fosdick Drive NW). These programs are an opportunity to enjoy an evening out in Gig Harbor while engaging with like-minded eco-enthusiasts in a lively and social learning experience.

For all Cocktails & Fishtales presentations, doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and presentations will take place from 6-7 p.m. Harbor WildWatch Steward Club members have free admission; guest tickets cost \$5 each at the door.

Harbor WildWatch's 2019 Cocktails & Fishtales season welcomes scientists, researchers, and environmental artists. The full schedule is below.

Marine Debris in the Wilds of Alaska
Wednesday, February 20, 2019

The first science-social will welcome Ken Campbell, Director of The Ikkatsu Project, to discuss marine debris in the wilds of Alaska (and at home in the Puget Sound). Formed in 2012, The Ikkatsu Project seeks to remediate marine debris through coastal surveying and exploration. They recently traveled to the Cape Decision Lighthouse in southeast Alaska to survey the surrounding beaches and collect water samples for microplastic research. The lighthouse is located in one of the more remote regions of the Alaskan panhandle at the southern tip of Kuiu (south of Sitka and west of Wrangell). With this remote location in mind, the team was interested in learning if – and how – the effects of plastics have impacted this coastline.

"Being Hear": Noise Pollution in Olympic National Park
Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Filmmaker and acoustic ecologist Matt Mikkelsen will screen the National Geographic-recognized short film *Being Hear* and discuss noise pollution in Olympic National Park.

Matt and Palmer Morse documented the work of acoustic ecologist Gordon Hempton in Olympic National Park. Gordon founded One Square Inch of Silence, a sanctuary of silence in Olympic National Park and the quietest place on earth. Matt also serves as a board member for One Square Inch of Silence. *Being Hear* was awarded National Geographic's Top 10 Best Short Films of 2017, and has been selected and screened at over 20 film festivals around the world, including Banff Mountain Film Festival and the International Wildlife Film Festival.

The Connection Between Habitat Restoration and Salmon
Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Mendy Harlow, Executive Director at The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG), will discuss the Hood Canal Watershed, habitat restoration, and salmon. HCSEG strives to deepen the connection between land, people, and salmon through habitat restoration, environmental education, and ecosystem research at their headquarters, the Salmon Center, in Belfair, WA. They focus on habitat restoration projects, research, and education programs throughout the Hood Canal Watershed. This presentation will take place at Gig Harbor Taproom.

Restoring Iconic Species to the Puget Sound: Olympia oysters, Pinto abalone, and Bull Kelp
Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Puget Sound Restoration Fund biologist, Stuart Ryan, will present a three-part restoration discussion on Olympia oysters, Pinto abalone, and Bull kelp in the Puget Sound. Puget Sound Restoration Fund was founded in 1997 on Bainbridge Island, and works collaboratively to restore marine habitat, water quality, and native species in Puget Sound through tangible, on-the-ground projects.

Forage Fish: Little Fish, Big Impact
Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Phill Dionne, Research Scientist with Washington Fish & Wildlife, will be discussing forage fish. Forage fish include herring, anchovies, smelt, and sand lance – all fish that are important prey for marine predators. Phill and his team have been focusing on research and conservation of these species by assessing population trends and spawning habitat. This presentation will take place at Gig Harbor Taproom.

Rockfish in the Puget Sound & Abalone in Southern California
Wednesday, July 17, 2019

This co-presentation from Adam Obaza and Amanda Bird, researchers at Paua Marine Research Group, will discuss rockfish and abalone. Paua Marine Research Group focuses on marine research in the Pacific. Adam will discuss the latest research on rockfish in our area, and Amanda will take us to warmer waters and present on current abalone research in southern California. This presentation will take place at Gig Harbor Taproom.

Environmental Trivia Night
Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Join the Harbor WildWatch team for our first-ever Environmental Trivia Night! How well do you know your local flora and fauna? How about your marine and environmental ecology? Gather your friends and create a team, or stand your own ground during what is sure to be a lively and fun evening. Trivia Night will take place at Gig Harbor Taproom.

Climate Change and the Impacts on our Health
Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Dr. Kris Ebi, United Nations Climate Change Report Contributor and University of Washington Global Health Professor, will discuss human health risks from climate change, and the adaptation and mitigation options to manage those risks.

Kris is the only researcher in Washington who contributed to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 report, Global Warming of 1.5° Celsius. You may have heard of this report in the news or on social media as the "12 years to limit climate change" report. She will lead a discussion about her research on human health risks from climate change. This presentation will take place at Ocean5.

Investing in Ecosystem Service Credits
Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Theda Braddock, professor at the University of Washington-Tacoma, will join Harbor WildWatch to discuss ecosystem service credits. The EPA defines these credits as the products of functioning ecosystems that benefit people. These credits might come in the form of incentive for landowners in exchange for managing their land in a way that provides an ecological service or benefit. This presentation will take place at the Gig Harbor Taproom.

State of the Sound Report
Wednesday, November 20, 2019

To wrap-up the 2019 Cocktails & Fishtales season, Puget Sound Partnership will be presenting their biennial State of the Sound Report. Puget Sound Partnership intends for these reports to inform legislature and the public on the status of restoration efforts across the Puget Sound, including how the ecosystem has been responding to state-wide measures that have been adopted. This presentation will take place at the Gig Harbor Taproom.

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Cocktails & Fishtales are educational events. As such, Harbor WildWatch does not endorse any speaker, service, or product represented at Cocktails & Fishtales.

Harbor WildWatch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental education organization based in Gig Harbor, WA. Their mission is to inspire stewardship for Puget Sound by providing learning opportunities about the environment to the people in the local community. Through more than 600 fun and interactive programs each year, Harbor WildWatch hopes to inform residents and visitors about local marine life and elicit their involvement in preserving our natural resources. To make a donation or learn more about Harbor WildWatch, visit www.harborwildwatch.org.