

**For Immediate Release – March 6, 2019**

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GIG HARBOR, WA – Harbor WildWatch will host Matt Mikkelsen, National Geographic-recognized filmmaker and acoustic ecologist, at their *Cocktails & Fishtales* science social on Wednesday, March 20.

Matt and filmmaker Palmer Morse (both founders of [Spruce Tone Films](#)) documented the work of acoustic ecologist Gordon Hempton in Olympic National Park in their film [Being Hear](#). Gordon founded [One Square Inch of Silence](#), a sanctuary of silence in Olympic National Park and the quietest place on earth. Their short film 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.

In *Being Hear*, viewers can witness Gordon's continuous pursuit of nature's myriad and multi-faceted soundscapes as an Emmy-winning acoustic ecologist. In this pursuit, he has become a master of a skill that is inarguably a dying art: listening. In the short film, he shares insights on the constant and nuanced communications of nature, the alarming extinction of places unaffected by human activity, the way quiet can open our eyes to the larger picture and the benefits of simply paying attention to place. Silence, as he puts it, "is the think tank of the soul."

Matt's presentation will include a screening of *Being Hear* and focus on a discussion around noise pollution in Olympic National Park. While road noise is certainly a factor of noise pollution across the globe, aircraft noise is the leading cause of noise pollution. In Washington, the Navy's EA-18G Growler jets (based on Whidbey Island) train directly above Olympic National Park. This past summer, the Navy proposed an increase in trainings and jets. EA-18G Growler jets are arguably some of the loudest military aircraft in the sky; the sound easily carries to the landscape below. The increased number of jet trainings would inevitably change the soundscape of Olympic National Park, which could, in turn, mean changes in animal species' behaviors and a noisy impact on park visitors.

The 21 and over science social will be held at Ocean5 (5268 Point Fosdick Drive NW) on Wednesday, March 20. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the presentation takes place from 6-7 p.m. Harbor WildWatch Steward Club members have free admission; guest tickets are a suggested donation of \$5 each at the door. Individuals who are interested in joining the [Steward Club](#) can purchase membership at the door or on Harbor WildWatch's website. Drinks will be available for purchase from Ocean5.

The full *Cocktails & Fishtales* schedule for 2019 can be found on Harbor WildWatch's website: [www.harborwildwatch.org](http://www.harborwildwatch.org).

*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](http://www.harborwildwatch.org).*

### Promotional Images:

A small inset image in the top left corner of the blue box shows a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. Below it is a smaller version of the 'Being Hear' laurel collage seen in the previous image, with the National Geographic logo at the bottom left.

**Being Hear & Discussion on Noise Pollution in Olympic National Park**  
with **Matt Mikkelsen** of Spruce Tone Films

Wednesday, March 20 from 5:30-7 p.m.  
at Ocean5 (5268 Point Fosdick Dr. NW)

Ages 21 and over | Steward Club members FREE; guests suggested \$5 donation  
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; presentation and film screening begin at 6 p.m.

**Cocktails & Fishtales**  
science socials with **Harbor WildWatch**