

Jan. 5, 2016

CONTACTS: Bridget Trosin, WSG Coastal Policy Specialist, bemmett@uw.edu
MaryAnn Wagner, WSG Communications, maryannb@uw.edu
Jessica Payne, Washington State Department of Ecology, Jessica.payne@ecy.wa.gov
Michael Levkowitz, Washington State Department of Ecology,
Michael.Levkowitz@ecy.wa.gov

Witness Washington's Highest Tide of Year

King Tide Viewing Party in Edmonds

EDMONDS – Observe the highest tide of the year. Join Washington Sea Grant and Washington Department of Ecology early Thursday morning for a hosted King Tide viewing party. Witness the King Tides with coastal experts to learn more about these highest tides of the year.

King Tides Viewing Party

Jan. 14 from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Edmonds Ferry Terminal, Brackett's Landing 100 Railroad Ave. Edmonds, WA 98020

Join the event Thursday morning for King Tides, hot beverages, snacks and a chance to learn about how you can get involved with the King Tides Project.

Bring your camera to photograph this annual event where Puget Sound overflows. Extreme high tides, or King Tides, are a dramatic feature of Washington winters. They occur at only a few specific times during the year when the moon is closest to the Earth. During these high water events, we get a glimpse of what our future around Puget Sound may look like as sea levels begin to rise as a result of climate change. The actual height reached by a King Tide will depend on the local weather and ocean conditions on the day.

All are invited to take part in the King Tides Project. Photograph your favorite park, beach or wetland in the Puget Sound region during this month to document these extreme tides, then upload your photos to the King Tides Project at

<u>www.washington.kingtides.net</u>. This project aims to promote awareness of the impacts of sea level rise to better visualize coastal areas that are vulnerable to rising tidal waters. Your photos help coastal communities to understand how sea level rise will impact their shorelines, and make the best decisions to adapt and prepare.

King Tides aren't part of climate change, they are a natural part of tidal cycles. However, these extreme high tides give a sneak preview of what higher sea levels could look like. By 2060 to 2070, it is possible that sea level rise caused by climate change will create tides the magnitude of King Tides every month. Join specialists on Thursday morning to learn more about the importance of King Tides.

Washington Sea Grant, based at the University of Washington, provides statewide marine research, outreach, and education services, helping people understand and address the challenges facing our ocean and coasts. The National Sea Grant College Program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

www.wsg.washington.edu.

Join the conversation: @WASeaGrant and Facebook.com/WaSeaGrant.