



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MEDIA CONTACTS:

Meg Matthews  
Washington Sea Grant  
206.291.5942  
[megmm@uw.edu](mailto:megmm@uw.edu)

Alicia Lawver  
Puget Sound Partnership  
360.464.2011  
[alicia.lawver@psp.wa.gov](mailto:alicia.lawver@psp.wa.gov)

### **Washington Sea Grant awards \$2.8 million in funding to 16 marine research projects and establishes collaboration with the Puget Sound Partnership**

*Studies address problems, opportunities facing Washington's coastal and marine environments*

[Washington Sea Grant](#), a program of the [University of Washington](#), will provide \$2,819,000 in total grants for 16 new research projects from 2014 to 2016. An additional 18 studies already underway will continue their critically important work on a range of marine and coastal issues. The Sea Grant research program currently supports more than 80 scientists and students at research institutions around Washington state. The full list of [new research project summaries](#) is available online.

New projects address a number of regional issues, including critical salmon recovery efforts to emerging challenges posed by ocean acidification and sea level rise to Pacific Northwest ecosystems, economies and communities.

Through a rigorous and competitive selection process, Washington Sea Grant funds, oversees and manages marine related research carried out by academic and research institutions throughout the state. Supported research complements Sea Grant outreach and education programs for the people, businesses, agencies and other organizations that rely on Washington's oceans and coasts.

Highlights include five projects supported through a new research collaboration with the [Puget Sound Partnership](#):

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of Puget Sound marine protected areas in improving both ecological and social resilience (Christie)
- Identification of critical growth periods for young salmon and the factors that affect their marine survival during those times (Beauchamp)
- Use of foraminifera – tiny, bottom-dwelling, shelled species – as indicators for the current and historic health of Puget Sound (Nesbitt)

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- Determining the effects of sediment porewater sulfide on eelgrass health, distribution and population growth in Puget Sound (Shull)

- Studying how stormwater filtration systems such as rain gardens can reduce pre-spawning mortality of coho salmon as well as protecting other freshwater animals (Stark)

These projects help move forward [Puget Sound Action Agenda](#) priorities as outlined in the Biennial Science Work Plan. The Puget Sound Partnership provided some funding through designated Environmental Protection Agency grant funds.

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), U.S. Department of Commerce, administers the National Sea Grant College Program and is the primary source of funding for Washington Sea Grant's research program.

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**2014-2016 research projects and summaries are available online at**  
<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B6jWx3ovVTjiN05QNjNYZ25aQVU&usp=sharing>

*Housed in the College of the Environment at the University of Washington, Washington Sea Grant leads research, outreach and education for people to understand and address challenges facing our oceans and coasts. Join the conversation: [wsg.washington.edu](http://wsg.washington.edu), [@WASeaGrant](https://twitter.com/WASeaGrant) and [facebook.com/WaSeaGrant](https://facebook.com/WaSeaGrant)*

#### **About the Puget Sound Partnership**

The Puget Sound Partnership is the organization leading the recovery of Puget Sound. The Partnership coordinates the efforts of citizens, governments, tribes, scientists, businesses and nonprofits to set priorities, implement a regional recovery plan and ensure accountability for results. For more information, go to [www.psp.wa.gov](http://www.psp.wa.gov).