



Meeting of the Bainbridge Island Watershed Council
January 24, 2024
Marge Williams Center
Minutes

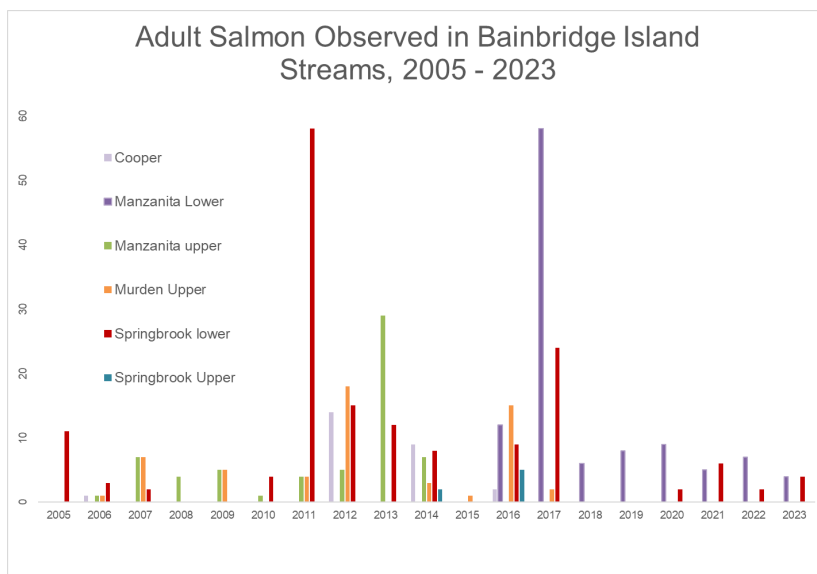
Attending: Jon Quislund (BI City Council), Cheryl Coon (Friends of Little Manzanita Bay), Brian Copp (wonderful citizen), John Williams (Salish Magazine), Christian Berg (COBI), Deb Rudnick (BIWC Chair)

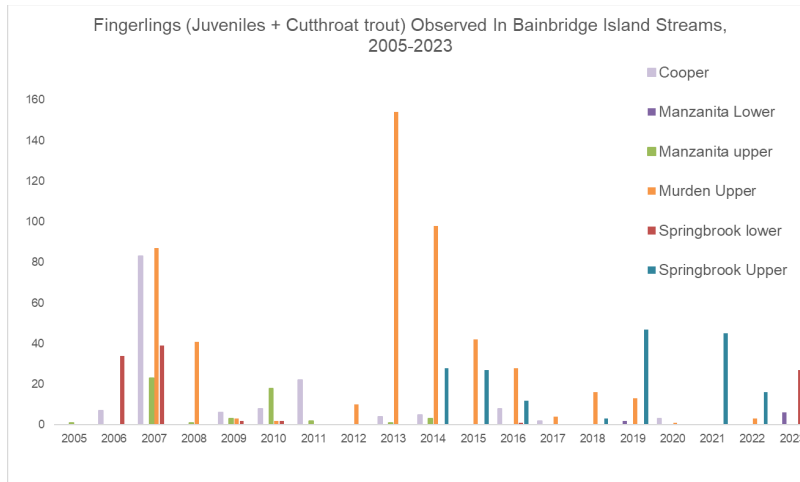
1. Cheryl Coon: history and current efforts of Friends of Little Manzanita Bay
 - Cheryl shared with us the origin story of the organization of which she is currently volunteer director and board member. It started with Fred Grimm “the mayor of Little Manzanita Bay”. Fred saw a legal notice in the BI Review and saw that neighbors were proposing to build a 240-foot dock in 2019; previously tried several years before but opposition made them withdraw, and they were returning to re-apply.
 - Fred and neighbors began organizing, decide to incorporate, Cheryl sets up as 501c3 and building public support to oppose the proposal based on specific code provisions. Gathered 475 signatures from Island residents, support from SB and BILT, many support letters. Fred put a huge banner across front of his property. Hired a lawyer. Help from Wayne Daley. It felt like they had a strong case but weren’t sure they’d succeed.
 - Original applicants sold but new owner also continued pursuing dock, but also left after 18 mos. The final owners finally walked away in 2022 after the City expressed strong reservations, but it did not go before a hearing examiner.
 - Cheryl and participants discussed the lesson learned about the need to be in more conversations with realtors about what can be promised to landowners, because it was felt that landowners weren’t clear about the restrictions and opposition to this application.
 - Now: Friends have a 2-year strategic plan:
 - learn more about the health of the watershed
 - Address debris in the bay: tires, boats- want to figure out removal
 - Partner more with other organizations
 - Get to know our local tribal members- Cheryl invited Luther Jay visit and did a salmon bake, community potluck

- Want to address risk to swimmers in the Bay from high-speed powerboats swimmers – buoy? Priority aquatic designation?
- Learn from local homeowners like Lee Dick - working on soft shoreline solutions
- Recruit new board members

2. Salmon monitoring update- Christian Berg, COBI

- Great suite of volunteers
- New section- shifted Dax^wk^w'd sáx^wb (Murden) creek monitoring section downstream to just below Wardwell Ave
- Handful of adults seen in Manzanita and lower Springbrook this year
- Decent amount of fingerlings/cutthroat trout in Springbrook, a few in Manzanita: hard to spot, so not necessarily that informative.
- Pics and data below





3. Other program updates:

- a. Sustainable Bainbridge submitted a grant proposal in partnership with Bainbridge Parks & Rec to Ocean Conservancy to conduct a Styrofoam cleanup at Hawley Cove, where there is a large deposit of degraded Styrofoam in the backshore that is largely covered with Ivy and other vegetation. The funds would be used to hire staff and volunteers to prune back vegetation to access and remove the Styrofoam. Christian suggested investigating whether floating in a vector truck on a barge might be feasible, as this might be a good way to remove a dense deposit of this materials- will connect on this.
 - b. BIWC continues to make progress on pollinator habitat at Bainbridge High School. This fall we used more of our funds from our National Wildlife Federation Grant to plant a native serviceberry tree with the garden club at the front of the school, and in the Spring we will plant bulbs around it.
 - c. BIWC will support the Beach Naturalists with their participation in the [WDFW mussel monitoring program](#). We have one site on Bainbridge, in eagle harbor, and mussels will be retrieved in early February for processing by WDFW.
 - d. BIWC continues to be a partner in the [Bainbridge Island Cooperative Weed Management Area](#), a multi-stakeholder group that works on education, outreach and control of noxious weeds across the Island. We met last week with County Commissioner Christine Rolfes and the new weed board coordinator Jade Jarvis to see how to restart connections between Bainbridge and the County, who broke our interlocal agreement in 2022 when that program was in transition and without leadership.
4. Upcoming events: Open Mike Science at Treehouse Café on Tuesday, Feb 13: featuring James Rufo Hill talking about Sea Level Rise
 5. Next BIWC meeting: Thursday, March 7 (note change this month from 3rd to 1st Thursday due to Deb having conflicts later in the month)