

Salem Sound e-Monitor

June 2008 Newsletter



Summer is Here!

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.....actually summertime at SSCW is crazy, but never lazy! (Hope yours is though.)

Read on to learn about our activities this summer and how you can participate.

A Salem Sound Coastwatch Success!

EPA Will Declare Salem Sound a "No Discharge Area"

Thanks to the efforts of SSCW, the U.S. EPA will soon be announcing that the waters of Salem Sound have been designated a No Discharge Area (NDA).

Releasing of any boat sewage will be prohibited-even if it has been treated by MSD's type I and II.

Salem Sound will be the first body of water north of Boston to be designated a No Discharge Area. The coastal waters of Marblehead, Danvers, Salem, Beverly, and Manchester-by-the-Sea are covered.

This effort came about because in an anonymous survey of boaters conducted by SSCW in 2005, 15% of the respondents admitted to dumping their sewage within 3 miles of shore or at their mooring or slip!

Boat sewage can cause health problems for swimmers, close shellfish beds and degrade marine habitats.

Once the NDA is official, boaters will be required to use pump-outs or go outside the NDA; SSCW will continue to promote improved pump-out facilities in the Sound.

Thank you to the harbor masters, public officials and volunteers from the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Power Squadron who helped make this possible.

Swimmers and Paddlers Wanted!

3rd Annual Swim & Fin OceanFest

On July 19, SSCW will hold its **3rd Annual Salem Harbor Swim** at the Swim & Fin OceanFest at Forest River Park. And this year we've added a **5 Mile flat water kayak race** in Salem Harbor too.

Highlights of the Swim & Fin OceanFest include:

- **Salem Harbor Swim - 500 and 1500 meters - fins and wetsuits allowed!**
- **5 Mile Kayak Race**
 - Competitive and touring classes
 - Single person kayaks, canoes, outrigger canoes and surfskis allowed
- **Family-friendly festival** with live music; nature, health and environmental activities for the whole family; food, games, raffles and a fun time for all.

Fees are \$25 in advance; \$35 day of the race; register online at www.swimandfin.org

Thanks to the following Sponsors:

Eastern Bank
Hawthorne Cove Marina
The Dr. Michael Medlock Family
North Shore Medical Center

Beverly Cooperative Bank
Eden Street Consulting
Eye Catcher Art
Flagship Adventures
Peabody Essex Museum
Warren Light Craft

The logo for Swim & Fin OceanFest features the words "Swim & Fin" in a bold, green, sans-serif font above the word "OceanFest" in a larger, bold, green, sans-serif font. The letters have a slight 3D effect with a darker green shadow.

We're still accepting corporate sponsors. Let us know if you are interested! Information for sponsors can be found at www.swimandfin.org.

To volunteer at the event please contact Liz Vago at lizvago@aol.com

SSCW Volunteer Opportunities

Summer is a very busy time at Salem Sound Coastwatch. We have volunteers monitoring salt marshes, looking for marine invasives and taking water samples so that the Salem Sound watershed will have clean beaches and streams.

Want to help?

Salt Marsh monitoring will take place in Newbury, Beverly and Gloucester. We will be evaluating the health of the marshes by counting fish and nektons, vegetation and macroinvertebrates

Sampling will be done during the day, mostly in July and August. Check the schedule at www.salemsound.org and let us know if you're available. We will train you on site.

The salt marsh in Gloucester is at Eastern Point. The tidal flow has been restored to the salt marsh and we will be monitoring to make sure it's becoming healthy again.

The Beverly and Newbury sites will document the pre-restoration conditions of the marshes. SSCW has received funding to coordinate restoration of Thissell Marsh in Beverly, which is on the grounds of Endicott College.

Marine Invasives Monitoring

Now that summer is here, the sea squirts are back at the docks and the Asian shore crabs are hiding under rocks.

Join us to learn how to identify and monitor our native marine species and the new bioinvaders.

Our first outing is Thursday, June 26, from 9:30 am to noon at Lynch Park in Beverly. We'll start with training, and then we'll count the different species living on and among the cobbles.

On Friday, June 27, we'll meet at Winter Island in Salem at 10:30 am for training and then we'll inventory the tidepools and shoreline. After lunch we'll move on to Hawthorne Cove Marina and wrap up at 2 pm. Bring your own lunch.

Pre-registration is required for both of these outings! Email us at info@salemsound.org or call 978-741-7900.

If you're not available June 26 or 27, but you're interested in being part of a team that conducts marine invasive species surveys this summer and fall, please let us know.

We will arrange a training session, and once you've been trained, you will not need to be available during the workday.

Clean Beaches and Streams

Clean Beaches and Streams is SSCW's flagship program. Are you willing to take water samples in the morning before work? Sampling will run every other week on Thursdays in July and August. Call us at 978-741-7900 for further information.

And finally, we want to share a wonderful story with you. Two of our members are getting married and they requested that in lieu of wedding presents, donations be made to Salem Sound Coastwatch. We greatly appreciate their thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Barbara Warren, Executive Director,
Susan Yochelson, Outreach Coordinator

PS-- Be sure to forward this information to a friend.