

**From:** pearl hewett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 10:35 AM  
**To:** Karl Spees  
**Cc:** Marv Chastain; Lois Perry; Sue Forde; [REDACTED]; zSMP; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Harry Bell; Chapman, Mike; Peach, Bill; [REDACTED]; Ozias, Mark; Winborn, Mary Ellen; [REDACTED]; Stephanie Noblin; [REDACTED]; Sandy Collins; Ivan Stocker; Art Ayres; Connie Beauvais; Judi Hangartner  
**Subject:** Salish Sea Currents - Rethinking shoreline armoring, part 3

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## **State guidelines offer new approaches to shoreline protection**

Bulkhead removal is becoming an attractive option for many shoreline property owners as awareness spreads of their geological and ecological impacts, and as aging bulkheads come up for replacement. New state guidelines provide alternatives to hard armor.

[Sources: Kinney et al. \(2015\). Analysis of effective regulation and stewardship findings: A review of Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program results, part 1. University of Washington Puget Sound Institute. 57 pages.](#)

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At the same time, the *MSDG*'s analyses and case studies are much more detailed and somewhat more technical than what most **SHORELINE HOMEOWNERS** will want to wade through.

"I don't think the guidelines ever trickled down to the public," says Theresa Mitchell, who manages the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Project. "It was a technical document for managers and contractors."

Recently, Mitchell led the drafting of an [abridged homeowner version](#), without the case studies, which was released earlier this year. "The idea was to create something more digestible for the general public but with enough technical detail to be useful."

[Sources: Kinney et al. \(2015\). Analysis of effective regulation and stewardship findings: A review of Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program results, part 1. University of Washington Puget Sound Institute. 57 pages.](#)

The dozens of detailed case histories that complete the *MSDG* may give prospective shoreline restorers a better sense of what to expect.

But Hugh Shipman, the Washington Department of Ecology's Puget Sound geologist and a contributor to the document, warns "it's not the end-all in design guidance. The *Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines* was a great step in the right direction. But no one who does this kind of work can go and follow the guidelines and be done. It's not intended to be a cookbook."

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April 7, 2016

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# *Salish Sea Currents*

**timely, local stories about ecosystem recovery**

[Rethinking shoreline armoring, part 3](#)

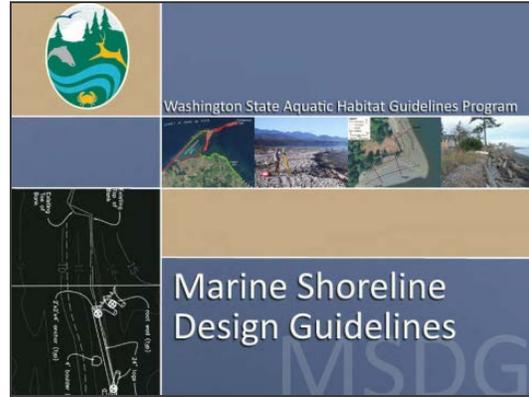


Is erosion always bad and do we need to battle it with hard armor? We wrap up our series this week with two stories that rethink some basic assumptions about shoreline protection.



**Sources of sand: maps show crucial "feeder bluffs"**

For more than a hundred years, property owners have seen shoreline erosion as the enemy. But it turns out that in many cases erosion is actually a good thing—crucial, according to scientists — because it provides the sand and gravel needed for healthy beaches.



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UW Puget Sound Institute  
Center for Urban Waters  
326 East D Street, Tacoma, WA  
Tacoma, WA 98421

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