

Salish Fjord

Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason County - Name Change

Township:

Range:

Section:

USGS Quad:

Location Description: Bay; 149 sq miles; Entrance begins with Tala Point on the W and Foulweather Bluff on the E at 47° 55' 24.41" N 122° 38' 23.81" W, extends S then SW to Union before turning NE to end at Lynch Cove at 47° 25' 50.62" N 122° 51' 38.06" W.

Proposal Summary: Salish Fjord: Bay; 149 sq miles; Entrance begins with Tala Point on the W and Foulweather Bluff on the E at 47° 55' 24.41" N 122° 38' 23.81" W, extends S then SW to Union before turning NE to end at Lynch Cove at 47° 25' 50.62" N 122° 51' 38.06" W.; Name would recognize that the feature is a fjord and not a canal, and that the feature empties into the Salish Sea.; Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason Counties, Washington; 47° 35' 43.30" N 122° 57' 46.75" W.

Proposed name would change the name of Hood Canal to Salish Fjord. The proponent states that the feature is not a canal, and the feature identifier should be changed to the correct term of fjord.

The feature empties into the Salish Sea on the N end, and the proponent wants to recognize the culture and history of the area of the indigenous people who have been here for thousands of years.

"Salish" features in WA:

Salish Sea

Proponent:

Barbara Stark
4010 NW Lakeness Rd
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Proposal Received: 4/1/2023

Initial Consideration: 12/11/2023

Final Consideration:

WA Committee Decision:

WA Board Decision:

US Board Decision:

Opinions:

WASHINGTON STATE
Geographic Name Application



Proposed Name: Salish Fjord

New Name

 County: Kitsap, Jefferson, Mason

Controversial Name

* Name Change

Township: Range: Section(s):

Location Clarification

Lat. 47 degrees 48" N, Long. -122 degrees 42"

Spelling Clarification

 W (Begin) Lat. N, Long.

 W (End)

Description

Type of feature (lake, stream, etc.): fjord

Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered): Hood Canal is actually a fjord formed by glaciers during the Late Pleistocene approximately 13,000 years ago and is part of the Salish Sea and Puget Sound. It has a mean depth of 53.8 meters (177 feet) with an average width of 2.4 km (1.5 miles) and a shoreline of 342.6 km (212.9 miles). This body of water meets all the geographical standards of a fjord, including that it is a long, narrow, glacier-carved waterway.

If a stream, number of months it flows on a yearly basis: na

Is this feature identified by other names or spellings? Please list variant names: Hood Canal

Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when? Yes, since 1932.

History

Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings, this might include information on the following: 1 Native American; 2 First settlers; 3 Historical background pertinent to feature; 4 History on how the land is/was used; 5 Natural disasters (floods, fires, etc.) 6 Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources. Use additional pages if needed.

Origin of name: In May 1792, Captain George Vancouver arrived at a glacial fjord formation created during the Late Pleistocene approximately 13,000 years ago. After charting the waterway, Vancouver named it "Hood's Channel" in honor of Admiral Lord Samuel Hood of the Royal Navy but wrote "Hood Canal" on his charts. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names mistakenly settled on "Hood Canal" as its official name in 1932. Several decades ago, at least two bills were introduced in the Washington Legislature to change the name, acknowledging that Hood Canal was not correct.

If a commemorative name, provide a brief summary of the ENTIRE life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature: _____

Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of feature? This unique waterway with its nearly 213 miles of shoreline provides breathtaking views of the rugged Olympic Mountains and world class fishing providing spectacular habitat for salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout along with geoduck, oysters, clams, mussels and shrimp. It is also home to a U.S. Navy submarine base (now part of Naval Base Kitsap) and some of the most stunning, important and pristine environments in the Pacific Northwest. Fjords are very rare in the contiguous United States and this fjord is the ONLY fjord on the west coast of the United States from the northern tip of Washington State to the southern tip of California. Truly a unique geographic feature.

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest: Merriam-Webster defines "canal" as "an artificial waterway for navigation or for draining or irrigating land." Hood Canal is clearly not a man-made waterway as canal would imply. It is a natural waterway formed by glaciers, part of the Salish Sea (recently renamed) and Puget Sound. Science tells us there is no question that this body of water meets all the standards of a fjord, including that it is a long, narrow, glacier carved waterway. Fjords are rare in the United States and Washington has one of only a very few fjords in all of North America. As a fourth-grade teacher for 21 years in Washington, it was my pleasure to teach my students about their state of Washington including its many geographical features. My students asked why the Hood Canal was called a canal and not a fjord as that was the true correct geographical term. It is difficult to explain why a mistake that is so obvious has not been corrected in all these years. Mistakes are made, but mistakes can be corrected.

By changing Canal to Fjord, we are not only using the correct geographical term but it will refocus attention to the fact that it is an extremely rare natural wonder with a fragile ecosystem that needs protection and conservation.

Mt. Rainier is not a hill, the Columbia is not a creek, the Pacific is not a lake. It is time to recognize the beauty and magnificence and uniqueness of this natural body of water – it is not a canal. NOW is the time to correct this 90-year-old error and rename the Hood Canal HOOD FJORD.

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom? Widely known for 90 years as Hood Canal

Please list all sources of information used for your research: (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc. for background history relating to proposed name) "Hood Canal: Splendor at Risk" 1991, edited by Jeff Brody and Chris Dunagan; "Encyclopedia of Puget Sound," by the Puget Sound Institute/University of Washington; "All Over the Map: How An Explorer's Mistake Led to the Naming of the Hood Canal," MyNorthwest.com Feb. 7, 2020, "House Journal of the Extraordinary Session of the Thirty-first Legislature, State of Washington, 1950-1951"

What type of support is there for the proposed name?

List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:

Request for support pending at Poulsbo City Council. See attached for signatures of support of proposal.

Application submitted by:

Name: Barbara Stark_____

Address: 4010 NW Lakeness Rd_____City: Poulsbo_____State:WA_Zip: 98370

Phone # :360-990-2327_____Email: barbarastark555@gmail.com_Date of Application: March 2022

I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.

Printed Name: Barbara Stark

Signature:_____Date: April, 2023

Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:
WA State Board on Geographic Names
PO Box 47030
Olympia, WA 98504-7030
(Phone: 360-902-1280 - Fax: 360-902-1778 - Email: bogn@dnr.wa.gov)

Washington State Board on Geographic Names

Salish Fjord

WA 47 48 N 122 42 W

In May 1792, Captain George Vancouver arrived at a glacial fjord formation created during the Late Pleistocene approximately 13,000 years ago. After charting the inlet, Vancouver named it “Hood’s Channel” in honor of Admiral Lord Samuel Hood of the Royal Navy but wrote “Hood’s Canal” on his charts. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names mistakenly settled on “Hood Canal” as its official name in 1932. It’s time for that error to be corrected.

Hood Canal is clearly not a man-made waterway as canal would imply. It is a natural waterway formed by glaciers, part of the Salish Sea (recently renamed) and Puget Sound with many rivers flowing into it from the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas. The fjord is 600 ft deep in some places. It has a mean depth of 53.8 meters (177 feet) with an average width of 2.4 km (1.5 miles) and a shoreline of 342.6 km (212.9 miles). Science tells us there is no question that this body of water meets all the standards of a fjord, including that it is a long, narrow, glacier carved waterway.

This waterway with its nearly 213 miles of shoreline provides breathtaking views of the rugged Olympic Mountains and world class fishing providing spectacular habitat for salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout along with geoduck, oysters, clams, mussels and shrimp. Fjords are rare in the United States and Washington has one of only a very few fjords in all of North America and the ONLY fjord on the contiguous West Coast of the United States.

Parker MacCready, a research professor in the school of Oceanography at the University of Washington stated in a Kitsap Sun article Aug. 28, 2022 that canal is not the right description of this body of water and that the Salish Sea is considered a “fjoldal system”.

As a fourth-grade teacher for 21 years in Washington, it was my pleasure to teach my students about their state of Washington including its many geographical features. My students asked why the Hood Canal was called a canal and not a fjord as that was the true correct geographical term. It is hard to explain why a mistake that is so obvious has not been corrected in all these years.

Mt. Rainier is not a hill, the Columbia is not a creek, the Pacific is not a lake. It is time to recognize the beauty and magnificence and uniqueness of this body of water – it is not a canal.

And, as we recognize the correct geographical term, it’s also important to recognize the culture and history of the indigenous people who have been here for thousands of years. The newly renamed Salish Sea empties into this historic body of water, so it makes sense that we rename it **Salish Fjord**.

Barbara Stark

Timestamp	Legal Last Name	Legal First Name	Street/Mailing Address	City/Town	State	Zip Code
4/16/2022 5:25:10	Durst	Renata	7022 NW Puddingstone Ln	Silverdale	WA	98383
4/16/2022 8:18:58	Kirkpatrick	Brittany	26460 Circle Dr NW	Poulsbo	Wa	98370
4/16/2022 8:23:20	Rasmussen	Carole	2533 Whitlow Creek Drive	Bishop, Silverdale	GA.WA	30621 98383
4/16/2022 8:39:56	STARK	BARBARA	4010 nw lakeness rd	Poulsbo	WA	98370
4/16/2022 9:11:39	Ipema	Myrt	3032 Pawnee Dr.	Bremerton	WA	98310
4/16/2022 9:12:00	Stone	Kristina	PO Box 601	Port Orchard	WA	98366
4/16/2022 9:34:18	Tovar	Anna	2141 Indigo Pointe Pl	Port Orchard	Washington	98366
4/16/2022 12:59:52	Barringer	Rebecca	930 SW Moffett Ln	Port Orchard	Washington	98367
4/16/2022 13:45:24	Keeton	Marjorie	2203 NW Westridge Ct	Silverdale	WA	98383
4/16/2022 17:29:55	Brownley	Elizabeth	1987 NW RAMPART RID	Bremerton	WA	98311
4/16/2022 18:12:57	Olson	Patricia	31891 Bridgeway NE	Poulsbo	WA	98370
4/17/2022 6:57:41	Dudley	Jane	8428 Orcas Loop NE	Lacey	WA	98516
4/17/2022 15:37:46	Bittner	Donna	14923 Olympic View Rd N	Silverdale	WA	98383-9726
4/18/2022 8:16:51	Lockwood	Kathleen	7980 University Pt Cir NE	Bremerton	Washington	98311
4/18/2022 11:33:57	Buckham	Barbara	7751 NE Beacon Pl.	bremerton	Washington	98311
5/1/2022 16:12:45	Stark	Ethan	5414 34th Ave SE	Lacey	WA	98503
5/1/2022 16:17:33	Stark	Natalie	5414 34th Ave SE	Lacey	Wa	98503
5/1/2022 20:46:44	Dudley	Jane	8428 Orcas Loop NE	Lacey	WA	98516
5/6/2022 6:43:27	Kirkpatrick	Tyler	26460 Circle Dr NW	Poulsbo	WA	98370
5/8/2022 15:11:11	Owen	Paula	294 NE Watson Court	Bremerton	WA	98321
8/28/2022 7:46:06	Barringer	Rebecca	930 SW Moffett Ln	Port Orchard	Washington	98367
8/28/2022 7:56:03	Wimberly	Kimberly	3005 NE 73 rd Street	Bremerton	Washington	98311
9/15/2022 10:09:38	Kirkpatrick	Tyler	26460 Circle Dr NW	Poulsbo	WA	98370
9/15/2022 10:09:58	Kirkpatrick	Brittany	26460 Circle Dr NW	Poulsbo	WA	98370
9/15/2022 20:17:19	Dudley	Jane	8428 Orcas Loop NE	Lacey	WA	98516

Google drive

NAME

ADDRESS

Nancy Jorgensen-Niemi

22429 S. Kingston Rd NE Indiano

Justine Jacobsen

19840 Indianola Rd NE Indiano

Cindy Tomes

10580 Sirocco Circle - Silverdale WA 983

Rayna & Andersen

24318 Rhododendron Ln ND.
Poulsbo WA 98370

JERRY TOMES

10580 SIROCCO CIR NW SILVERDALE
98383

William Paulin

20514 Big Rock Lane NE Poulsbo
98370

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

What type of support is there for the proposed name?

List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:

Individuals who live on or near the shoreline of the fjord and endorse the name change as it reflects and recognizes the true unique qualities of this fragile ecosystem and acknowledges the culture and history of the indigenous people who have been here for thousands of years. **SALISH FJORD**

Ann L. Armstrong 1989 NE Gustaf St, Poulsbo, WA
98370

Jay & Sandra Dalquist 19664 Moravian Ln NW
Poulsbo 98370

Sheri Burch 10771 HILLSBORO DR SEVIERDE
" " 98383

St Bend

D. ak

MYRT IPEMA

Joye Davis

Annie May Davis

Elizabeth Pray
Elizabeth Pray

DAVID DAMAZO 2674 NE Passage View
Lane, Poulsbo 98370

3032 PAWNEE DR. BREMERTON
98310

6585 NE Aquarius Ln Bremerton 98311

703 Callahan Dr apt 325
Bremerton, WA 98311

3950 NE Hyak Way
Bremerton, WA 98311

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Organizations in Poulsbo that endorse this name change as it validates and authenticates Poulsbo's historic connections to early Norwegian families who settled here. Time to recognize this rare natural body of water for its unique qualities and fragile ecosystem. Let's show our children that mistakes are made, but mistakes can be corrected.

Poulsbo Lions Club, P.O. Box 1244, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Linda Schwund 1490 NW LASSIE LN, Poulsbo, WA 360-649-8972
schwundk@yahoo.com

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ericandterry@comcast.net

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jmac 4651 cmsn.com

LARRY LINN 1975 NW PETERSON DR. BREMERTON WA 98312
GOTOLARRYLINN@YAHOO.COM

SCOTT PUKH 29674 BEACH DR. NE Poulsbo 360-535-0899
rspukh@juno.com

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daldamazo@gmail.com

THOMAS SETTLE

29695 BEACH DR NE POULSBORO, WA 98370

TWSETTLE@OUTLOOK.COM

LAKRIS CARSON, P.O. Box 707, Keyport, WA 98344

LAKRIS.CARSON2287@gmail.com

RICHARD PRINE

30050 SCENIC DR. NE POULSBORO WA. 98370
(ON THE FJORD!)

rprineawhitect@gmail.com

Gregory E. Supancheck

2036 NW Stronsted Ln, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Supg2@comcast.net

Lee E. Metcalf

17196 Seminole Rd. NE Poulsbo, WA 98370

lee.metcalf@comcast.net

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Individuals who live on or near the shoreline of the fjord and endorse the name change as it reflects and recognizes the true unique qualities of this fragile ecosystem and acknowledges the culture and history of the indigenous people who have been here for thousands of years. **SALISH FJORD**

Charles McCabe 23056 Peaceful Pl NW rnungun@gmail.com
Poulsbo, WA 98370
360.509.9949

Debbie Jo Rak 18520 Fjord Dr NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Judy Man 3310 NW Lakeness Rd
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Brijak Brown 23049 PEACEFUL PL, NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Chuck Brown Sr.

CHUCK BROWN 3035 d gmail.com
22135 Woodward way NW
Poulsbo WA 98370
Anargonzalezmonoz@gmail.com

Ana R. Gonzalez Monoz

Amuhall Steibert
23025 PEACEFUL PL.
POULSBO, WA 98370

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT
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Salish Fjord

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Individuals who live on or near the shoreline of the fjord and endorse the name change as it reflects and recognizes the true unique qualities of this fragile ecosystem.

Let's show our children that mistakes are made, but mistakes can be corrected.

Jan Kelly, 27271 Boig Valley Rd, Poulsbo

Cinsi Olmstead 531 NE Conifer Dr. Bremerton 98311

Molly Milligan POBox 3718 Silverdale 98383

Lois Anne Sykes 8360 NW Wildcat Lake Rd Bremerton 98311

Cindy Wilson 3945 Martha Ln Silverdale, WA 98383

Kathleen Riley 14585 Kingscross Circle NW, Silverdale, WA 98383

Jeff + Leslie Brown 5892 Madrona Ave NE, Bremerton WA 98311

John Martin 1956 NE LAURIEVEE LOOP Poulsbo, WA 983

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Barbara Stark 4010 NW Lakeness Poulsbo WA 98370
barbarastark555@gmail.com 360-990-2327

Diana Zegers 580 NW Lofall Rd, Poulsbo WA 98370
dezegers@hotmail.com 360.930.4148

ROGER A. ZEGERS 580 NW LOFALL RD POULSBO, WA 98370
EMANNW@GMAIL.COM 360-509-9125

Rebecca Bettridge 24449 Mt. Washington View Ln, Poulsbo, WA 98370
Reccbettridge@gmail.com 360-317-6597

Joe Bettridge 24449 Mt. Washington View Ln. Poulsbo, WA 98370
Jbettridge7@gmail.com 360-317-6597

John Bloomquist, 815 NW LoSail Rd, Poulsbo 98370

JANICE BLOOMQUIST, 815 NW LOFALL RD, POULSBO 98370

Diene Althebery, 12474 Mt Worthington Loop NW Silverdale WA

Ken Althebery, 12474 Mt. Worthington Loop NW Silverdale WA

TOM STARK 1870 CLARET LOOP NW Poulsbo WA 98370

BEVERLY STARK 1870 CLARET LOOP NW, Poulsbo WA 98370

Athena Sparrow 890 NW Snow Creek Way, Bremerton WA 98311

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Individuals who live on or near the shoreline of the fjord and endorse the name change as it reflects and recognizes the true unique qualities of this fragile ecosystem.

Let's show our children that mistakes are made, but mistakes can be corrected.

Kids Pine 30050 SCENIC DR NE Poulsbo, WA 25 years
Richard Pine 30050 SCENIC DR NE Poulsbo, WA 25 years
GREG ST. PETER 30013 SCENIC DR NE, POUSSBO, WA 98370 18 years
Reckelle St. Peter 30013 SCENIC DR NE, POUSSBO, WA 98370 18 years
Cheri Paulin 20516 Big Rock Ln NE Poulsbo, WA 98370 20 years
William Paulin " " " " 20 years
Barbara Coffey 9561 NE Tall Tree Way, Kingston WA 50 years
Sandy Lewis Sandy Lewis 8972 Watson Pl. NE. Bremerton 98311
Stephanie Sweeney 1202 NW Tahoe Ln Apt 203 Silverdale, WA 98383
Myrna Knight PO BOX 2795, BREM WA 98310-0358
Tracyton Beach

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Individuals who live on or near the shoreline of the fjord and endorse the name change as it reflects and recognizes the true unique qualities of this fragile ecosystem.

Let's show our children that mistakes are made, but mistakes can be corrected.

Richard Daniels
~~R. Daniels~~
5001 NW Viva Ct.
Poulsbo 98370

Michael W. Brennan
22825 Adams Rd NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370
~~Michael W. Brennan~~

Robin Glass
23057 Lovinda Rd NW
Poulsbo WA 98370
Robin Glass

Phil Glass
Philip Glass

Catherine Ahl
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Maryanne Humiston
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Kathryn Chapman
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Myra Dunne
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Suznamish
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Carol Larsen
Carol Larsen
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Poulsbo WA 98392

Connie Waddington
Connie Waddington
9223 Sands Avenue
Bainbridge Is, WA
98110

ERIN DEVITO
2491 NW PARMA FLATS WAY
POULSBO, WA 98370

LORETTA GORDON
18885 VIKING WAY NW
POULSBO WA 98370

Bill Castleman
Bill Castleman
P.O. Box 1875
Poulsbo, wa. 98370

Jael Stock
Lael Stock
2039 NW Orenstang
Poulsbo WA
98370

Kristin Bonholzer
Kristin Bonholzer
24191 Johnson Rd NW
Poulsbo W. 98370

Jewi Schumacher
Terri Schumacher
1839 NW MULHOLLAND E
POULSBO WA 98370

Andrew S. AHL
Andrew S. AHL
GARY BÉTOURNE
2607 Western Ave #155
SEATTLE WA 98121

Kitsap Daily News, Feb. 2, 2023

<https://www.kitsapdailynews.com/news/ex-teacher-seeks-support-to-change-name-of-hood-canal/>

Ex-teacher seeks support to change name of Hood Canal

She says Salish Fjord more accurately represents waterway

By *Tyler Shuey* • February 2, 2023 1:30 am



Hood Canal, File Photo

A local resident is looking to get endorsements from the Poulsbo City Council, local Native American tribes and other community groups or members to change the name of Hood Canal in an effort to have a name that more accurately reflects the waterway.

In a document provided to the council, Barbara Stark said Hood Canal is “clearly not a manmade waterway as canal would imply. It is a natural waterway formed by glaciers, part of the Salish Sea (recently renamed) and Puget Sound with many rivers flowing into it from the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas.”

Stark is a retired fourth-grade teacher and said the Navy brought her and her husband to Poulsbo. She wants Hood Canal to be renamed Salish Fjord, citing the culture and history of indigenous people who have been here for thousands of years.

In May 1792, Capt. George Vancouver arrived at a glacial fjord created during the Late Pleistocene approximately 13,000 years ago, Stark points out in her document. Vancouver named it “Hood’s Channel” in honor of Adm. Lord Samuel Hood of the Royal Navy but wrote “Hood Canal” on his charts. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names settled on “Hood Canal” as its official name in 1932.

Hood Canal has a mean depth of 177 feet with an average width of 1.5 miles and a shoreline of 212.9 miles. Stark said “science tells us there is no question that this body of water meets all the standards of a fjord, including that it is a long, narrow, glacier-carved waterway.” She also pointed out that fjords are rare in the United States, and Washington has one of the only fjords in North America.

“My students asked why the Hood Canal was called a canal and not a fjord as that was the true correct geographical term,” Stark’s document reads. “It is hard to explain why a mistake that is so obvious has not been corrected in all these years. Mount Rainier is not a hill, the Columbia is not a creek, the Pacific is not a lake. It is time to recognize the beauty and magnificence and uniqueness of this body of water – it is not a canal.”

The reason Stark brought this to the council is that she wants more governing bodies, agencies and organizations to support her idea so the state’s Committee on Geographic Names will take her seriously. That is the committee that would review a name change. Then it would go to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

“I don’t think they’re going to pay any attention to me,” Stark said.

The majority of the council agreed that a name change should be explored, but they weren’t sure if Salish Fjord is the right choice. Councilmembers Ed Stern and Britt Livdahl suggested reaching out to tribes for their input.

Councilmember David Musgrove suggested finding out what the original tribal name for the waterway was, and perhaps changing it back to that. Councilmember Connie Lord said she wants to know what the potential ramifications are. She also was interested in a poll to see what the community wants.

The topic will be brought back for discussion at a future council meeting.



The Hood Canal Bridge looms in the distance as a fisherman casts from the shore at Salsbury Point Park near Port Gamble at dusk on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020.

Hood Canal has the wrong name. A North Kitsap woman wants to change that

Nathan Pilling

Kitsap Sun

August, 28, 2022

As students in Barbara Stark's class were learning about Washington's geographical features, she instructed them to do the unthinkable. Write ... in a textbook? This was a once in a lifetime thing, she noted to them.

“Every time you see ‘Hood Canal,’ you put your little pencil through that line, and here’s the new spelling word for today: ‘fjord,’” she said, recalling her instructions to her students with a laugh, now retired after 28 years as an educator. “It was really kind of funny, because after a while they were getting quite proficient in all their geographic terms, and they said, ‘Well, why are we still calling it ‘Hood Canal’ when it’s a fjord?’”

It was difficult to explain that somebody had made a mistake naming the waterway years ago and that it had never been corrected, she said.

“That kind of planted the seed for me,” she said.

‘This is a fjord’

Stark lives in a quiet neighborhood overlooking what – officially speaking – is Hood Canal. In her family, it’s been a long-running point of emphasis that “canal” is something of a misnomer for the fishhook-shaped body of saltwater that cuts between the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas. “Fjord” is the preferred term.

Stark explains the issue this way: A canal is human-made and usually connects two bodies of water, two marks against the current naming convention. “Fjord” – generally described as a long, narrow inlet bordered by steep slopes and formed by glacial activity – is the more fitting term she likes, given that the body of water checks off those boxes.

She recalls how her late husband, Jim, would never refer to the body of water as a canal, even from the moment they moved into their home in 1994: “He said, ‘This is a fjord.’ It was just part of his vocabulary. It wasn’t Hood Canal ever to him.”

For years she complained that the waterway behind her home wasn’t being identified for what it really was, and eventually her son Mike suggested she do something about it.

So she started to build a case for a name change.

An exploratory journey

The history of the waterway's current name stretches back to May 1792 and the exploratory journey of Puget Sound commanded by the British Royal Navy Captain George Vancouver. Vancouver would note in his journal that on May 13, 1792, he was giving the inlet the name "Hood's Channel" for "the Right Honorable Lord Hood," referring to a British admiral, Lord Samuel Hood, who'd signed the original instructions for Vancouver's voyage, historian Edmond Meany wrote in his 1907 book "Vancouver's Discovery of Puget Sound."

Meany notes a puzzling detail connected to the naming in his book: "It is a curious fact that Vancouver named many places 'channels' in his journal, but wrote them down as 'canals' on his excellent charts. This was the case with Hood's Canal."

The first time the name was considered by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names was in 1891, the year after the authority was first established by executive order of President Benjamin Harrison, said Miel Corbett, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Geological Survey, in an email to the Kitsap Sun. In the board's first baseline report laying out officially designated names across the country, the waterway's name was listed as "Hood Canal."

"There is no evidence that the BGN did any in-depth analysis of the names it recorded in 1890-91, but instead would have relied on existing maps, charts, published histories, local knowledge, etc." Corbett said. "This was also the early era of USGS topographic map production, and as such there would have been a need for a reliable source of standardized names to be placed on those maps; indeed, this was the primary reason for the BGN's establishment."

Records show the board was asked in 1917 to reaffirm the name as "Hood Canal," and a decision card shows the name with the possessive form struck out. A research card

prepared in 1953 recorded that the established form had been maintained in published maps and guides.

“In summary, other than the somewhat more formal review of the name in May 1917, the BGN’s decisions have simply affirmed the name in local and published use,” Corbett said. “There does not appear to have been any serious attempt over the 132 years of the BGN’s history to question or change the name.”

The case

Could Stark's effort change that? She hopes to build some momentum to finally adopt a new name for Hood Canal and plans to work a proposal through the state’s process for renaming geographic features. Her pitch: “Salish Fjord,” a name that links the body of water to the broader Salish Sea, recognizes the region’s original Native peoples and uses what, in her eyes, is a more accurate term given the waterway’s features.

Now, Stark wrote in a summary of her case for a name change, is the time to correct the error: “Mt. Rainier is not a hill, the Columbia is not a creek, the Pacific is not a lake. It is time to recognize the beauty and magnificence and uniqueness of this body of water – it is not a canal.”

Parker MacCready, a research professor in the School of Oceanography at the University of Washington, agreed that canal isn’t the right descriptor for the body of water. He noted that the broader Salish Sea is considered a “fjordal system” and the glacial activity that carved the region. Would “inlet” be an accurate title?

“Obviously, it’s not a canal,” he said, “But I can see how it might have seemed like a canal to the early explorers.”

Hood Canal has physical features and flow characteristics that match those of a fjord, said Tarang Khangaonkar, who helped to develop the Salish Sea Model and is now the director of the Salish Sea Modeling Center at the University of Washington Tacoma.

"It meets all the classic behavior characteristics and classic geomorphologic characteristics," he said, "such as it is a long, narrow channel, it's really deep relative to how small the width is, and its side slopes are really steep, so you go from shoreline to depths of 100 meters really fast, and there is a sill at the mouth, and not to forget freshwater inflow at the estuaries. These are classic characteristics of a fjord. But we didn't know until we did the modeling and analysis that the circulation stratification and other behaviors matched exactly how a fjord behaves."

Khangaonkar also pointed to Saratoga Passage, which sits between Whidbey Island and Camano Island, and East Sound, which cuts into Orcas Island, as waterways in Puget Sound that have similar fjord-like characteristics.

"I would be very supportive of calling it 'Something Fjord,'" he said of Hood Canal, suggesting "Skokomish Fjord," recognizing the Skokomish Tribe, as a possibility.

Stark plans to make a pitch to a pair of state bodies that oversee geographic name changes. The idea would first go to the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names, and if the committee approved, the proposal would then move on to the Washington State Board on Geographic Names, the final authority on names in the state.

"It's a pretty thorough process that involves a lot of opportunities for public input," said Kenny Ocker, a spokesman for the state's Department of Natural Resources.

"Essentially, to name something that hasn't been named or to change the name of a geographic feature that has been named, you would have to submit an application to the committee explaining why you want to name this feature this way, what the feature is

and then demonstrate some level of community support for the name change. The larger and more prominent the feature, obviously, there's a higher bar to clear.”

Were the board to give Stark's proposal a green light, the name would become official on all state maps and publications. Information about the name change would then be forwarded on to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for consideration at the federal level.

“To me, it's amazing that it hasn't been changed before now,” Stark said. “Sometimes I think you get so comfortable with something and you think, ‘Oh, it's too hard.’ Well ... sometimes it's worth it to jump into something hard and make it correct.”



Barbara Stark lives in a quiet neighborhood overlooking what – officially speaking – is Hood Canal. She hopes to change that name.

Comments

Received

Comments on the Proposed
Name Change:
“Hood Canal” to “Salish Fjord”

For whom it may concern.

The Hood Canal’s Geographic/Geologic land form was properly described as a “Canal” in the context of English (and Spanish) cartography of the 18th Century. The land form may also be described, today, as a Channel, Sound, or, perhaps, a Fjord or a Loch. It should be noted that, just as George Vancouver named the subject body of water “Hood’s Canal” in 1792, typical bodies of water had been described as “canal” by the Spanish during the 18th through 20th Centuries (OSD; “canal”: a navigation channel, a strait) and by the English (OED; “canal”: a water course, a channel) from the 16th into the 19th Centuries. Vancouver and his cartographer had identified 12 other bodies of water on the 1798 map (of his 1792/3 Northwest voyage) as “Canal”. Three of these were previously identified as canals by the Spanish during the 1791 voyage for Don Francisco Eliza. Therefore, use of “canal” on the map was not a mistake; neither would it have been a mistake by the U. S. Board of Geographic Names. Cartographers are not prone to errors in map labeling.

Of further Interest, Lochs in Scotland were formed by the same geological process as the Hood Canal (Continental Ice Sheet). The use of “Loch” for the Hood Canal would have an additional interestingly historic value. In Scotland, Loch Long and the Gare Loch are, like the Hood Canal for the U S, locations of the Trident Submarine Bases for the UK. These Lochs and the Hood Canal are practically geographic copies of each other and they share a strikingly similar scenic beauty. Although a change is not advocated by this author, “Loch” would be much more appropriate than “Fjord”.

The proposed name identifies the fjord as being associated with/amplified by the term “Salish”. Salish is a linguistic term describing a grouping of similar tribal languages known throughout the greater Northwest. If the intent is to pay tribute to a tribe or specific people, it should be assigned to the Twana, not the

broad “Salish” designation. The Twana inhabited all the shoreline of the Hood Canal from below the northern locale of Port Gamble to all points south. Although a change is not advocated by this author, Twana Loch would be much more appropriate.

However, please note that Northwest tribal association with any name change may be controversial. The tribes of the Northwest, including those of the Salish Language group, including the Twana, were Slave holders, owners, and traders. Of interest however, based on records available; the Twana, unlike most others, acquired their Slaves through trading vice violent village or tribal raids.

Changing this name will not modify or erase the over 200 years of history, cartography, documentation, records, etc. which will perpetuate the given name, Hood Canal. Changing the name of the Hood Canal to meet a later American definition would be nothing less than rewriting history. Providing students with the full history of the exploration and naming of the Hood (Hood’s) Canal, including the historic variability of language, would be, of course, proper education. History should studied, understood, and respected/venerated; it should not be rewritten to meet some current cause.

“Hood Canal” is historically accurate and should not be modified in any way!



Maurice L. Hooks
10 July, 2023

General References:

Various Period Maps

id est, Library of Congress Cntrl # 2012593219 & 2003627084

OSD: Oxford Spanish Dictionary

OED: Oxford English Dictionary

Aboriginal Slavery on the Northwest Coast of North America,

Leland Donald

Indian Slavery in the Pacific Northwest,

Robert Ruby & John Brown

et alii

Addendum to 10 July 2023 Comments on Hood Canal Name Change

Part I: Discussion of modern terms for the Hood Canal land form.

The previous comments demonstrate that Vancouver, in 1792, was correct in his usage of “canal” for the Hood Canal.

The geophysical land form of the Hood Canal, if named today in Scandinavian countries, would, most probably, be described as a “fjord”; in Scotland, as a “loch”. In Spain, France, or Germany, it may be properly described as a “canal” (“kanal” in German). In America it may be described as a “channel”, “sound”, “bay”, “estuary”, or, even, as a “canal”.

Of interest is that Webster’s 1824 Dictionary describes “canal” as being applicable to many forms of water courses, with “channel” being preferred for natural courses. The 1989 Webster’s Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language describes “canal”, sense 2, as “a long narrow arm of the sea penetrating far inland” (very similar to the French “Bras de Mer” definition of “canal”). Other English lexicons describe “canal” as being artificial or in similar terms.

The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) defines “canal” as “primarily manmade”, however, this does not preclude natural. The USGS recognizes 2 features being named as canals; Hood Canal and Lynn Canal in Alaska (above Sitka, named by Vancouver in 1794). The USGS recognizes only one feature with a “fjord” name. It is Nassau Fiord (in a remote area 40 miles east of Seward, Alaska). USGS classifies the feature of Hood Canal and Nassau Fiord as a “Bay”; Lynn Canal as a “Channel”. The USGS does not recognize “Fjord” as a classification of a land feature.

The U. S. Forest Service has 2 features with Fjord names in Alaska.

Point of Information: The Salish Sea does not empty into the Hood Canal. The Hood Canal is a sub-feature of the entire complex of the Salish Sea (as are the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, Rosario Strait, etc.).

There is absolutely no justification for changing the name of Hood Canal.

Part II: Listing of Canal land forms on Vancouver's 1792 map.

From North to South

Fischer's Canal

Burke's Canal

River's Canal

Call's Canal

Knight's Canal

Loughborough's Canal

Bute's Canal

Canal de Neiestra (sic) Senora del Rosario*

Jarvis's Canal

Burnard's Canal

Canal de Arro (sic) (west of Bellingham Bay)

Canal de Alberni (sic)(on southwest coast of Vanc. Isl.)

Similar Spanish named land forms from 1791 de Eliza map

Gran Canal de Nuestra Señora del Rosario*

Canal de Haro

Canal de Alberny

* Note: Features named are not in same geographic location; these are labeled on opposite sides of "Texada" ("Feieda" on 1792 map) Island. Modern location of Rosario Strait is much farther south.



Maurice L. Hooks

30 July, 2023

From: [David Haugen](#)
To: [DNR RE BOGN](#)
Subject: Application to change name of Hood Canal to Salish Fjord
Date: Sunday, November 26, 2023 9:58:26 AM

External Email

I disagree with the proposed name change. Many geographic features on the Northwest Coast within the US States of Washington and Alaska and the Canadian Province of British Columbia use the terminology of Inlet for dead end salt water reaches of the Pacific Ocean but none are named Fjord. For example, Case, Totten, Hamersley, etc in Washington, Burrard, Jervis, Knight, etc. in British Columbia and Cook, Taku, etc. in Alaska. If one is to be consistent with the use of the English language then Inlet would be the proper term.

Additionally, it is not common geographic usage to have the tributary feature use the same name as the parent body of water. Therefore, it is not proper to have a Salish something connect to a Salish something. That will inevitably create confusion where none currently exists. If a change in names is considered required then perhaps using a Skokomish or S'Kallam word would be more appropriate, such as Twana Inlet.

I have been a resident of Western Washington for 70+years and have lived along the shores of Hood Canal for the last (and best) 40 years! Thank you for your consideration.

David R. Haugen
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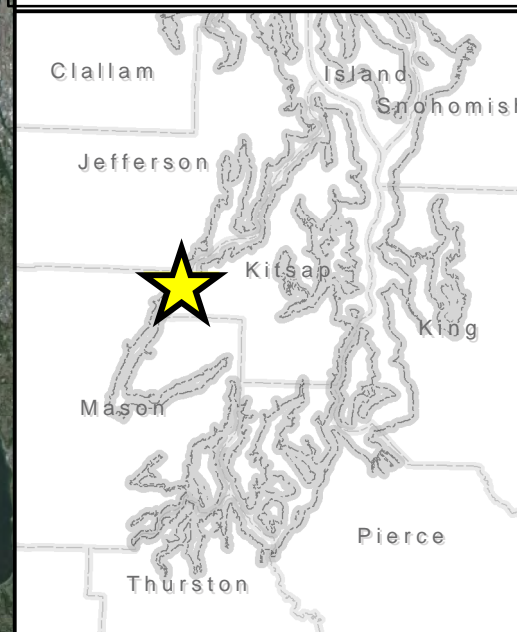
Salish Fjord - JEFFERSON, KITSAP, MASON COUNTIES



Bay; 149 sq miles; Entrance begins with Tala Point on the W and Foulweather Bluff on the E at $47^{\circ} 55' 24.41''$ N $122^{\circ} 38' 23.81''$ W, extends S then SW to Union before turning NE to end at Lynch Cove at $47^{\circ} 25' 50.62''$ N $122^{\circ} 51' 38.06''$ W.

Proposed name would change the name of Hood Canal to Salish Fjord. The proponent states that the feature is not a canal, and the feature identifier should be changed to the correct term of fjord.

The feature empties into the Salish Sea on the N end, and the proponent wants to recognize the culture and history of the area of the indigenous people who have been here for thousands of years.



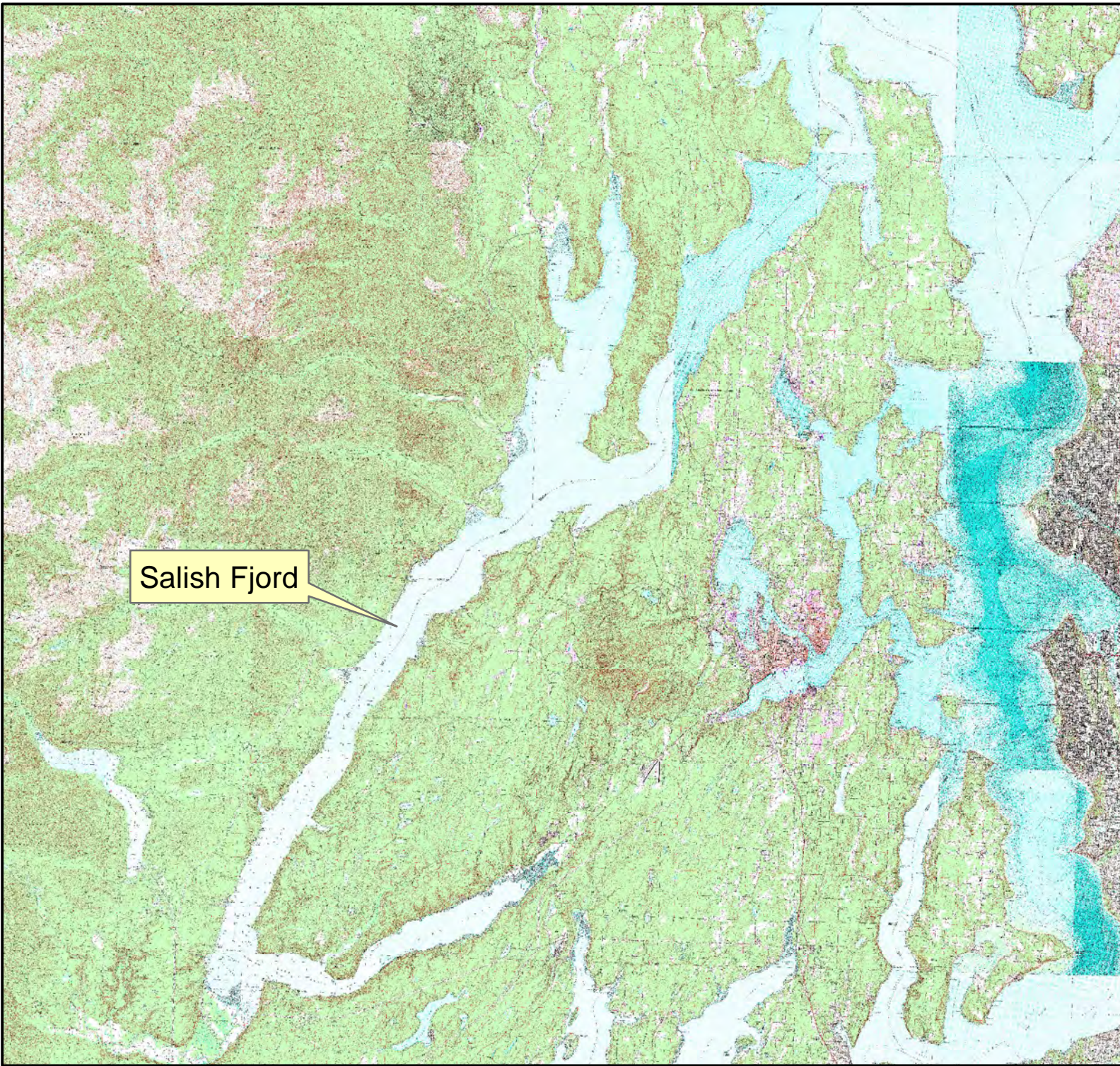
Salish Fjord

Tala Point
Foulweather Bluff

Lynch Cove

Clallam
Island
Snohomish
Jefferson
Kitsap
King
Mason
Pierce
Thurston

Salish Fjord - JEFFERSON, KITSAP, MASON COUNTIES



Salish Fjord

Bay; 149 sq miles; Entrance begins with Tala Point on the W and Foulweather Bluff on the E at 47° 55' 24.41" N 122° 38' 23.81" W, extends S then SW to Union before turning NE to end at Lynch Cove at 47° 25' 50.62" N 122° 51' 38.06" W.

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