



## If your client needs an authorization to use state-owned aquatic lands...early communication is key!

### A FACT SHEET FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

As an environmental consultant, you play a key role in helping your clients design and permit projects. It is very important for clients (who require authorization to use state-owned aquatic lands) to communicate with DNR **before** they have finalized their design or started permitting.

#### Who do I contact?

Call (360) 902-1100 and our staff will connect you with the land manager who represents your area to begin the process.

#### Why should I contact DNR early in the process?

Contacting DNR early can prevent wasted time, money, and effort. We can help determine if a project is located on state-owned aquatic lands, if the land is available, if the use is appropriate, and how the project can be constructed to avoid or minimize impacting aquatic resources. After our initial consultation, we will work closely with regulatory agencies to communicate our expectations.



Annual Vashon Maury Island Low Tide festival.  
Photo: Kyle Murphy/DNR

#### The Distinct Role of the DNR Aquatic Resources Program

DNR's Aquatic Resources Program (AQR) is unique because we act like a landlord on behalf of the state. The program manages state-owned aquatic lands to provide a balance of public benefits for all citizens of the state, and must consider the natural values and best use of aquatic lands before authorizing uses on them. When the Aquatics Program authorizes uses on state-owned aquatic land, we are committing to a long-term business relationship with the applicant so we consider environmental risks, the risks to public health and safety, and the financial risks for the entire lifetime of the use.

#### Does the Aquatic Resources Program issue a permit?

No. DNR's Aquatic Resources Program is non-regulatory and does not issue permits. We're more like a landlord. If Aquatic Resources authorizes your client's project, they will sign a legal contract with us that documents the terms and conditions of the use such as, insurance requirements and rent (if applicable).

#### Improving Stewardship

During the last several years, DNR has done a great deal of research on how to reduce impacts to aquatic habitats. We have recently updated our leasing process to reflect what we have learned with a focus on *avoiding* the impacts of new uses, and minimizing the impacts of existing uses in the nearshore environment. Specifically, we are targeting the impacts of:

- Shade
- Contamination and waste
- Compaction of sediments
- Noise
- The disruption of littoral movement

**CONTACT:** Aquatic Resources Program.