



SUSTAINABLE SEATTLE'S 1ST ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

February 11, 2010 – 6:00-9:30

Film descriptions

Washington State

Almost Lost (Part I) - Native Oyster Enhancement in Washington

The oyster industry along the whole west coast owes its beginning to a small, native oyster called the Olympia oyster. Tasty beyond compare, Olympia oysters are the only oysters native to the Pacific west coast. Ecosystems unto themselves, Olympias play a role in keeping our estuaries clean and providing fish habitat. Today, they are holding on throughout most of their historic range and they are still cultivated by a handful of growers, but remnant populations pale compared to the expanses of native oysters that supported a thriving oyster industry in the mid 1800s. Current efforts to rebuild native oyster populations have generated a big following, including the navy and a groundswell of activity. This film captures some of the characters and activities involved in rebuilding a storied population that has beckoned humans to the shore for thousands of years. Puget Sound Restoration Fund Project (25 minutes).

Almost Lost - (Part II) Pinto Abalone Recovery in Washington

Puget Sound is full of many treasures, and the native abalone is among the greatest. At a small abalone nursery in Port Gamble baby abalone are being grown for re-introduction into the big, wild world. This summer, over 1,200 animals reared in this facility were outplanted into Puget Sound, representing the most substantial abalone recovery effort to date in Washington. Pinto abalone - the only abalone species found in Washington - may be at risk of becoming locally extinct. The natural population has plummeted over the last several decades and there are too few abalone in the wild to successfully reproduce. The goal of this multi-faceted abalone recovery program is to increase densities in the wild and build sustainable populations of this important species for the future. This film



showcases different aspects of recovering abalone populations in Washington State from spawning adult brood animals, to tending juveniles during months of grow-out, to careful reintroduction into the wild. It's a big undertaking involving conservation genetics, state-of-the-art hatchery rearing techniques and lots of collaboration between scientists, resource managers, tribes and community groups. Puget Sound Restoration Fund Project (30 minutes).

Community Shellfish Farming/Restoring Water Quality to Puget Sound

Mucking around in the productive ooze of Puget Sound is what this film is all about. Launched in 2003, the Henderson Inlet Farm gets the whole community out on the beach seeding and harvesting oysters. Henderson Inlet is an incredibly productive marine system with a rich history of oyster culture. But the only way we can keep getting food from Henderson Inlet is if we keep the water clean. The same is true for many other bays and inlets in Puget Sound. This film features an eclectic and motley crew in the South Sound who are producing community-grown oysters to create tasty incentives for pollution control that everyone can enjoy. Puget Sound Restoration Fund Project (16 minutes).

Kingdom of Tonga

During recent visits to the South Pacific Ms. Solomon became aware of a number of interesting stories about local people in the Kingdom of Tonga working to protect and improve their fragile ecosystem. Tonga is located in the South Pacific – North of New Zealand – SW of Samoa.

1) Organic Gardening the Tongan Way – Kingdom of Tonga

This story is one of many examples of people living in the South Pacific making use of every resource available to them (12 minutes).

2) Water Quality Monitoring – Kingdom of Tonga

This film documents the establishment of a community water quality monitoring program in Neiafu Harbor, Vavau, Tonga (12 minutes).