

## Linda Ann Kuller

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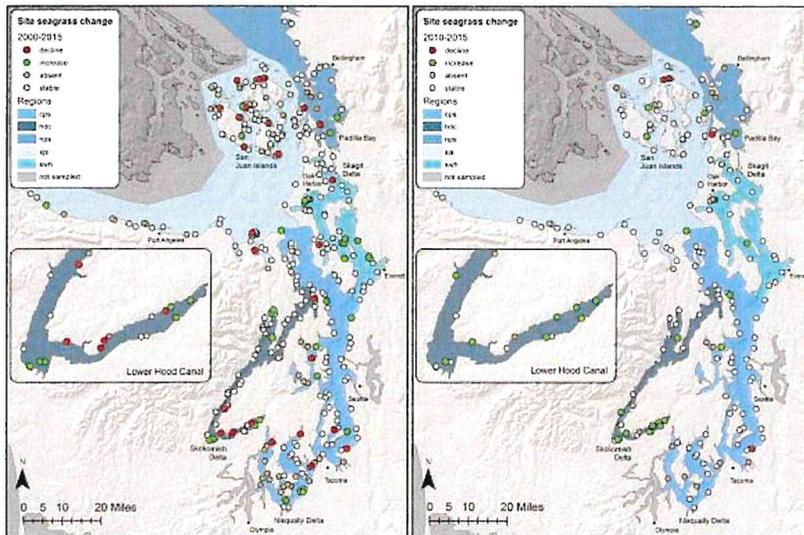
**From:** Jan Alderton <janetmalderton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 6:41 PM  
**To:** Brent Snow; Camille Uhler; Dale Roundy; Michael Pickett; Pete Moe; Steven Rubey; Tim Blanchard; Victoria Compton; Rick Hughes; Jamie Stephens; Bill Watson  
**Cc:** Lynda Guernsey; Linda Ann Kuller; janetmalderton@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Cumulative Impacts to Our Shorelines  
**Attachments:** Cumulative Impacts Tracking.docx

September 17, 2018

Dear Planning Commissioners and County Councilors,

Our iconic resident orca whales are heading towards extinction. If we do not reverse historic declines in the health of our near-shore waters, there can be no hope that the southern resident orca whales will recover.

This article <https://www.eopugetsound.org/magazine/is/eelgrass-planting>, published by the University of Washington on September 6, 2018, maps areas where eelgrass has declined over the past 15 years. Our San Juan Islands have lost significant eelgrass. With the fate of the orca whales in our hands, we must protect our remaining wild shorelines and restore shorelines that have been degraded.



The Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board has ordered San Juan County to implement a robust cumulative impacts tracking system because the complexity of our new shoreline regulations and the numerous impacts permitted in the 200 foot-wide shoreline zone threaten the health and productivity of our near-shore waters. For example, the regulation that allows timber harvest of 30% of mature trees every 10 years within the “Tree Protection Zone” will likely lead to further loss of vitality in our near-shore waters. Allowing 5% of the branches of trees and shrubs to be removed annually could lead to declining native shoreline vegetation -especially if shoreline owners do not understand the importance of native trees and shrubs for the productivity of our near-shore waters. The fallen leaves, twigs, branches, and insects gently fertilize the near shore waters just as compost benefits our gardens.

Please adopt a continuously updated and transparent tracking of San Juan County's cumulative shoreline impacts that will allow us to course correct as necessary. Otherwise, we are heading blindly into the future.

Thank-you for caring about the fate of our orca whales -that rely on Chinook salmon -that rely on the smaller fishes -that rely on insects and zoo(animal)plankton -that rely on phyto(plant)plankton -that rely on the energy of sunlight. If we care enough, the once abundant life along our island shorelines will be restored.

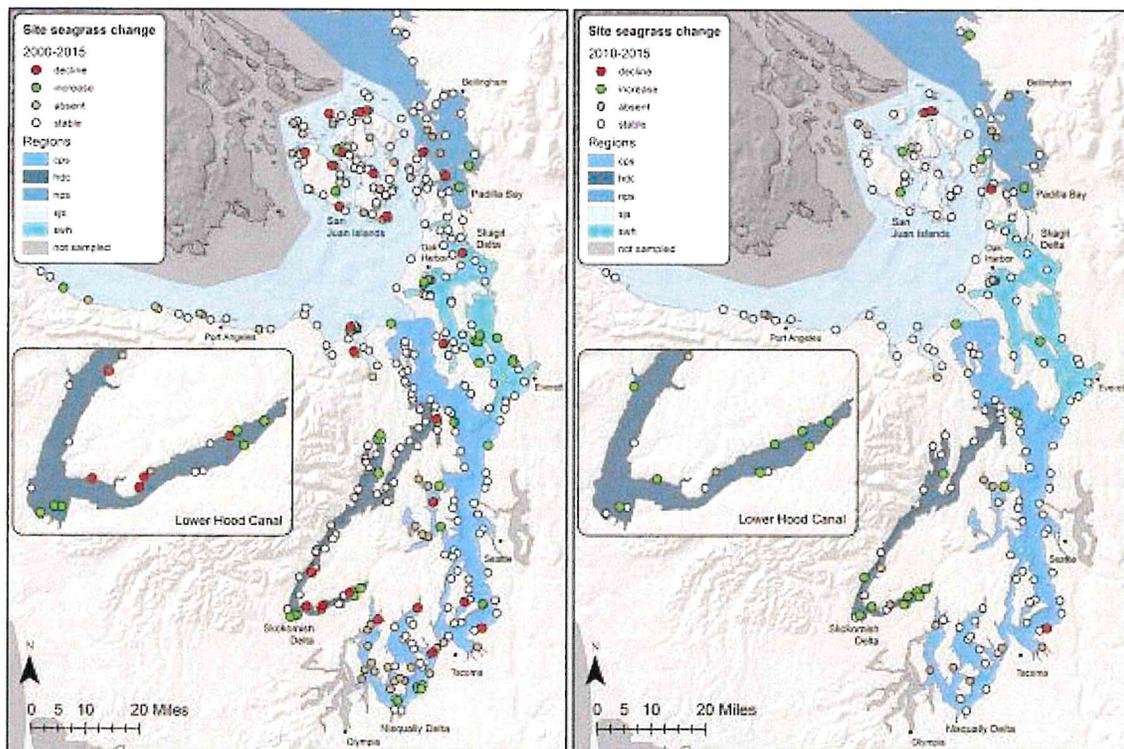
Janet Alderton  
Year-round Resident of Deer Harbor, Orcas Island  
Shoreline Property Owner & Steward since 2003  
510-520-1073

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