



THE WORKING JIB

Friday Harbor Sailing Club



December 2020





From the Commodore
Laura Jo Severson



San Juan County and the Marine Resources Committee are currently undertaking a project to identify high priority foraging habitat for the endangered SRKW. Studies show that SRKW are susceptible to disturbance from the noise and presence of vessels. Protecting priority feeding areas could help to mitigate the impact of vessels and thus allow SRKW a better ability to find and capture their scarce fish.

While it is important that we understand how whales use the west side of San Juan Island and Haro Strait, it is equally important to understand how we humans use and value the area. It is one of the primary migratory corridors for returning Fraser River Chinook, known to make up a majority of the SRKW's diet in the summer/fall. The area has also been historically important for salmon fishing both for the Local Coast Salish Tribes and later for commercial and recreational fishing, it remains a usual and accustomed fishing and hunting area for Coast Salish Tribes.

With the west side of San Juan island being a favorite honey hole for fishers, it may also be a location of higher acoustic disturbance from vessels during the summer and early fall season. Our work specifically seeks to engage local community and interested user groups like yourselves to empower you to help craft sustainable and defensible solutions to the management of vessels on the west side of San Juan Island.

This is being achieved by combining whale behavior data, acoustic monitoring data and social user group data to help us understand how people use and value the west side of the island. This data will allow us to identify important whale foraging areas and how the communities' values interact with these areas. We hope to propose management ideas that balance protection for SRKW while continuing to allow for traditional uses such as fishing, kayaking and boating.

We would like to invite you, as a member of the recreational boating community to participate in a short survey.

(if you have already taken this survey as a resident of the Westside or through the Waggoners newsletter article there is no need to fill it out again).

<https://www.surveylab.com/pageTag/SurveyCampaign/cId/e54b0730726b325ec29dab5cc5d52a31296a210771/>

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions,

Best regards

Frances

Frances C. Robertson, PhD. *Marine Program Coordinator*
San Juan County Public Works





FLEET NEWS from the Fleet Captain

I guess it is time to “say goodbye” to that memorable year of 2020.

- Minimal Races and Cruises
- No Formal Club Meetings
- No Shaw Classic or RTC Race



And, the total lack of in-person visits and touch.

What I wouldn't do for a "good old handshake" right now,

Or the ability to go out to dinner again.

In retrospect,

There were some great days out on the water.

And a couple of really cool overnights in hidden coves.

We had camaraderie of Fellow Seamen/Woman.

We are “Totally Blessed.”

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jim



Under the Surface with Bruce Nyden



Wolf-Eel (*Annarrhichthys ocellatus*). The Wolf-Eel is not a true eel but an elongated fish with eel-like body. This is a male and easily recognized by its larger garish head with gelatinous jowls. It is the more docile and slow moving of the sexes and enjoys crushing Dungeness crabs and large bivalves using its strong jaws. Note the row of molar-like teeth the runs centrally along the roof of its mouth. The females are generally smaller and darker in color and have smaller and sharper teeth in the front of the mouth. They are also more skittish and more likely to snap at a diver attempting to gently maneuver them out of their holes. They form monogamous pairs and generally share one rock crevice or cave. They are seen infrequently in Puget Sound but are common around the San Juans and up into the Strait of Georgia. See Volume 3 pp. 886-887 in "Fishes of the Salish Sea" for more details.

Giant Barnacle

This species of barnacle (*Balanus sp.*) can grow to 4-5" across the base in rocky areas with good current flow. They sweep the water for small planktonic organisms using structure like a modified foot while being permanently cemented to a rock surface.





White Sturgeon

This species of sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) was first described in 1878 and is easily identifiable by their barbels and rows of large 38-48 bony scutes along their lateral lines. They are common from Mexico to Alaska but spawning occurs in the larger rivers such as the Sacramento River complex and the Fraser River.

Sturgeon can grow to over 6' in length and live long into their 20's. In close quarters with divers in confined aquaria spaces they seem to prefer just floating in place. Their eyesight is poor and when startled or bumped they will bolt like a torpedo and will accidentally ram anything, including divers!





***Polyorchis* medusa**

A medusa “jellyfish” is life-cycle stage in a group of invertebrates. This photo was taken off of a section of rocky coast in Oregon during a period of calm seas. There are not equipped with nematocysts (stinging cells) dangerous to humans but are very fragile.



Pacific Giant Octopus

Our local species of octopus (***Enteroctopus doefleini***) is the largest species of eight-armed cephalopods. They can grow to reach a span of over 16’ and females can weigh up to 300 pounds. The one in this photo was estimated to weigh 25-30 pounds.

Bruce Nyden
Rear Commodore



A Good Read

ENDURANCE

Shackleton's Incredible Voyage

By Alfred Lansing

This is a classic true life adventure of an amazing group of men led by Irish born Sir Ernest Shackleton whose leadership brought them all home.

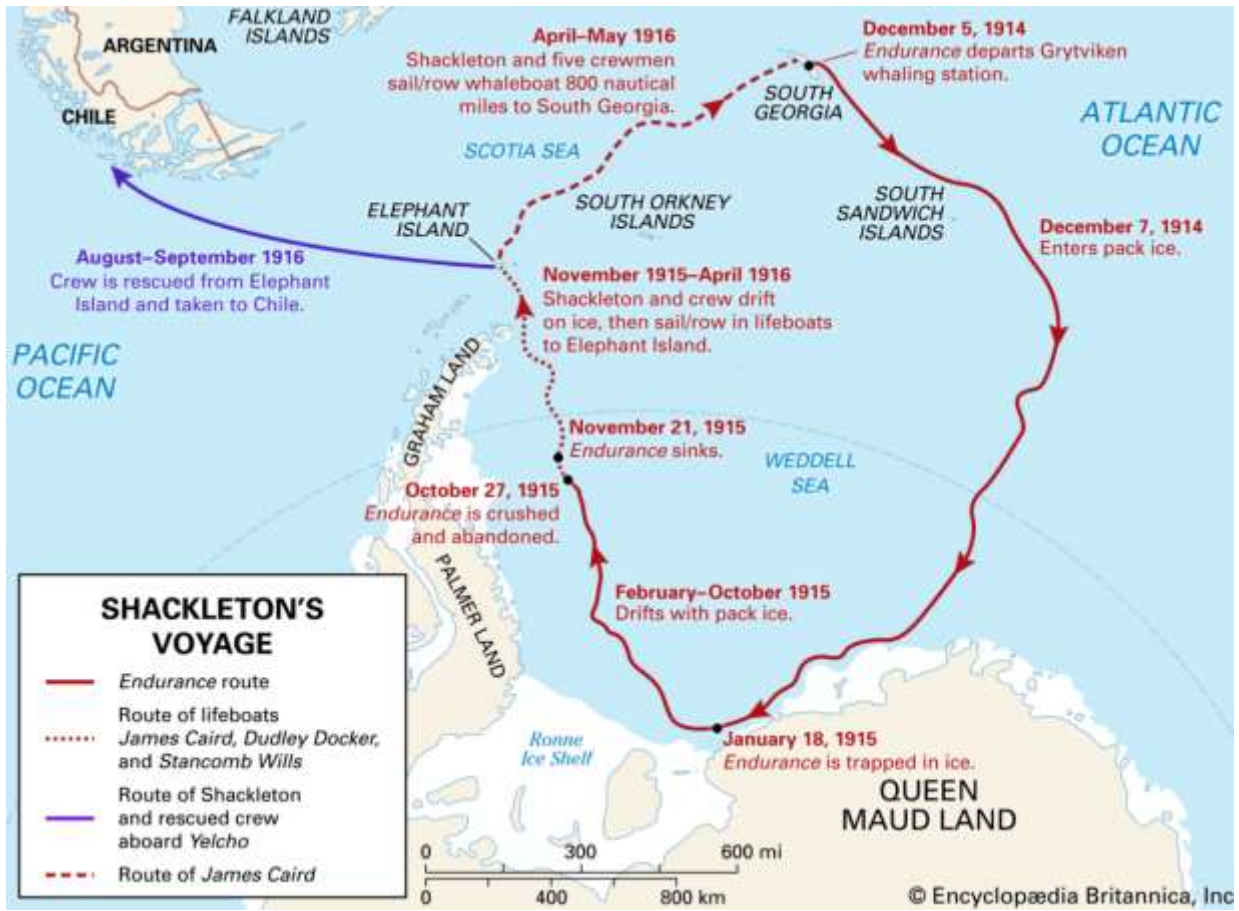
Like all adventures we set out to accomplish, plans can change so we adapt and continue with new plans. It's like this year, 2020, a year of new plans.

Shackleton never gave up, he improvised and made tough decisions; he was a true leader of men.

This is a story of sailing which turns into a tale of survival. Imagine sailing the South Atlantic and into the Weddell Sea to be engulfed in ice. Living on a floating ice sheet challenges the very core of man and so does coming face to face with a leopard seal.

A book recommendation by Kathleen Salinas, FHSC Newsletter Editor
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Holiday Friends

