

Lengtíxw tse Schténgexqen Á7leng House of Watching Over All the Territory

Samish Indian Nation-Department of
Natural Resources



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Samish Indian Nation Traditional Territory



Samish Tradition

- S7a'mesh – "The Giving People"
- A people with hundreds of generations of history
- A deep connection to the Salish Sea and its abundant natural resources
- Rich in chela'ngen (culture) with traditions that continue to this day
- "When the Tide is Out, the Table is Set"



TEK-One Possible Definition

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge is a broad term encompassing the observations, memories and science of any group that has been in the area long enough to see environmental change.
- Indigenous Knowledge or Indigenous Science is the term for the cumulative scientific and observational knowledge of the original inhabitants of an area.

Indigenous Science

- Based on the same observational process as modern day environmental science but recorded in the oral traditions of the people rather than written papers.
- Example can be found in the Samish Calendar
 - February-Month of the Frog
 - Pacific Chorus Frogs begin to call indicating a time to end winter activities and the transition to spring
 - May-Month of Gathering Seaweed and Camas
 - Generally a time when daytime tides are getting lower so resources are more accessible and when Camas is in bloom for proper identification
 - September-Month of the Coho
 - This will be a busy time fishing and preparing for winter as the Coho return
 - November-Month of Howling Winds/Shaking Leaves
 - Might not want to plan travel by canoe during this time



Combining Indigenous Science with Modern Science

- “Two Eyes Seeing”
- Taking the understanding of modern science (the left eye) and combining it with the Indigenous Knowledge of hundreds of generations (the right eye) to see a more complete picture.





Moving Away From Engagement to Meaningful Partnership

- Engagement-Often means messaging or sales pitch.
 - “Here is our fully designed restoration project out for permit and in the 30 day comment period. What do you think?”
- Meaningful Partnership- Incorporating a communities (Indigenous or otherwise) knowledge, ideas and goals into a project starting at its inception.
 - “We have this idea to do a restoration project in your Traditional Territory to address this environmental issue. We would like to incorporate your community's input into the project. Here is a blank sheet of paper. What would you like to gain from this project?”

Meaningful Partnerships

Based on Relationships!

- Relationships take TIME.
- Make contact very early in the conceptual design phase.
 - Not just through Tribal Chair! A Natural Resources Department, Cultural Department.
- Leave your degree at the door but bring the scholarly drive to learn inside!
 - Be open to other ways of knowing
 - Understand that these partnerships may make the project more complicated or increase the scale



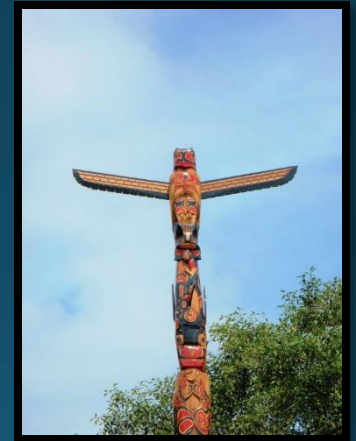
Samish Department of Natural Resources

- Mission Statement

“The mission of the Samish Department of Natural Resources is to preserve, protect and enhance culturally significant natural resources and habitats within Samish Traditional Territory for current and future generations.”

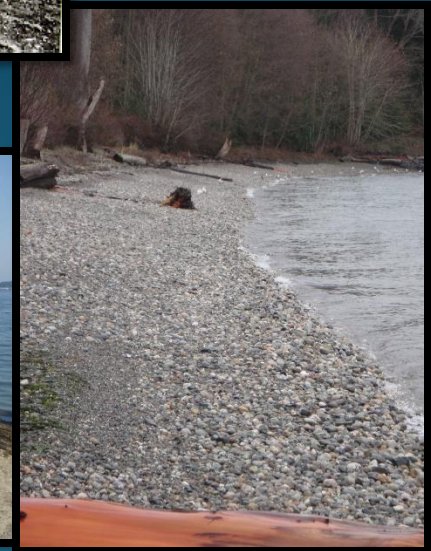
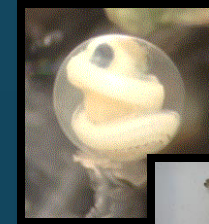
Indigenous Knowledge Guiding Work-Examples

- Stream Restoration
 - Not just about Salmon-although that is critical
 - Incorporation of traditional use plants into restoration plans



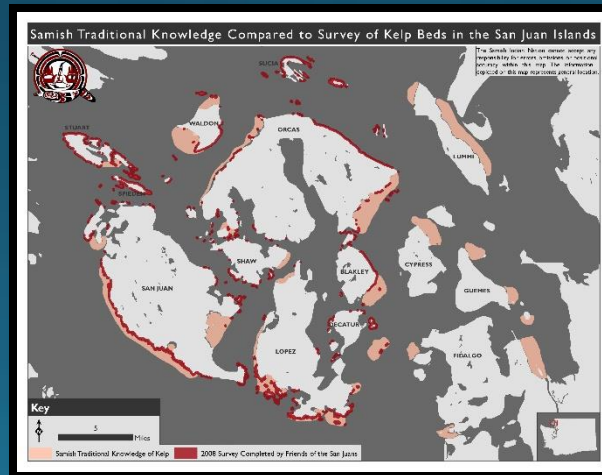
Indigenous Knowledge Guiding Work-Examples

- Beach Restoration
 - Protecting culturally significant sites
 - Enhancing shellfish and forage fish habitat
 - Planning for sea level rise



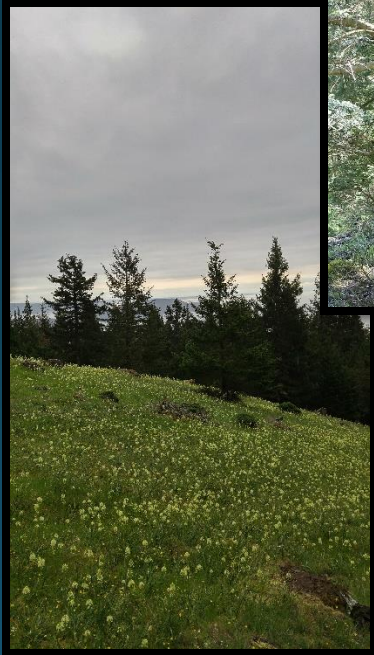
Indigenous Knowledge Guiding Work-Examples

- Kelp Monitoring and Recovery
 - Concerned Tribal Elder unable to find kelp for traditional cooking methods
 - We are now partnering with NOAA, NASA and NW Straits to look at kelp trends in Samish Traditional Territory with an eye towards restoration projects
 - We are also participating in the development of the new Floating Kelp Canopy Indicator for the Puget Sound Partnership.



Indigenous Knowledge Guiding Work-Examples

- Prairie Bald Restoration
 - Seeking to restore the traditional management of important Camas harvest prairie bald areas-tree thinning, controlled burns, traditional harvest



Indigenous Knowledge Guiding Work-Examples

- Marine Debris and Diffuse Creosote Removal Project
 - Removes creosote, plastic and other marine debris from beaches throughout Samish Traditional Territory removing toxins that impact all life from sand fleas to orca to humans.
 - 700,000 lbs in 5 summers so far



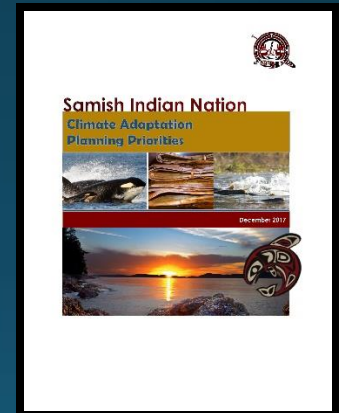
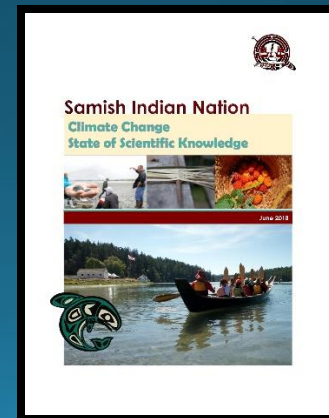
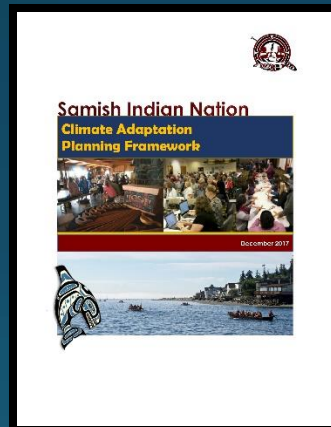
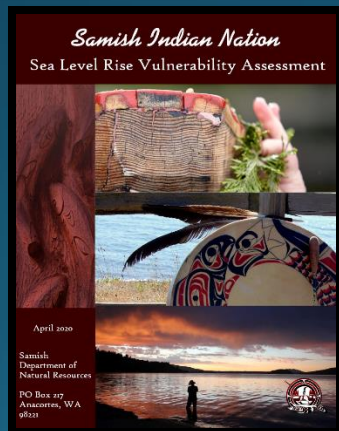
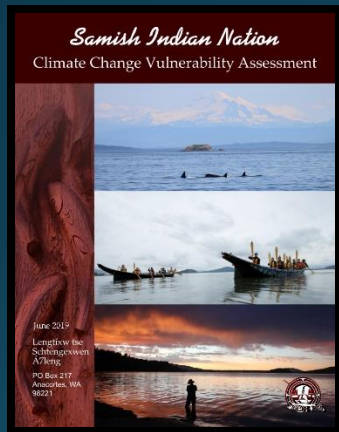
Indigenous Knowledge Guiding Work-Examples

- Ethnobotanical Surveys
 - Recent partnership with San Juan National Historic Park to survey American Camp for cultural use plants so they could incorporate that knowledge into the development of a vegetation management plan

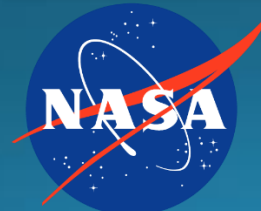
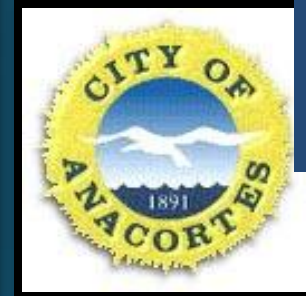
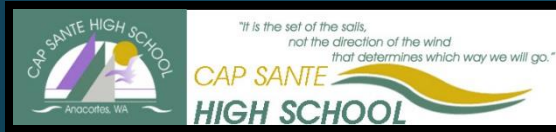


Indigenous Knowledge Guiding Work-Examples

- Climate Change
 - Vulnerability Assessments-Ground up process
 - Mitigation Planning-protecting cultural resources and places

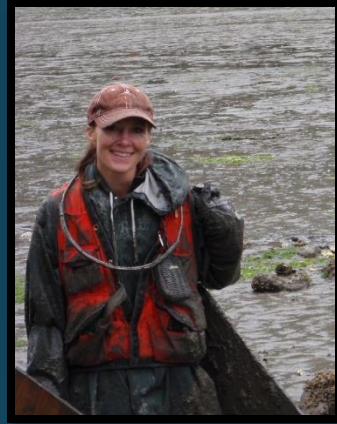


Partners



And More.....

Samish DNR



Questions?

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