

# NEWS

The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, Washington 98505 753-2780

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Results of a six-month research study on Hood Canal, conducted during the 1971-72 academic year by a student and faculty team at The Evergreen State College, have been published in a 321-page book with a separate 150-page appendix, college officials reported today.

Copies of the document have been placed in the college library collection and a few are available for public distribution, primarily to interested Hood Canal residents, according to Academic Dean Ed Kormondy, who as a faculty member was coordinator of the Political Ecology study group which did the research work.

The study, supported by a \$4,908 grant from the National Science Foundation, was designed to provide information to the U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife for its use in helping governmental units make environmentally-sound land use decisions in areas of their jurisdiction along Hood Canal's 65-mile length.

Work by 30 students and five faculty members in the Political Ecology program began last January and was completed in June. Written statements, raw data, maps, graphs, charts, and photographs then were assembled and delivered for printing and binding. The research document and appendix came off the presses late in November.

Items of investigation included physical characteristics of the Canal (aerial maps, geobiology, computer simulations of effects of effluents); chemical characteristics; water quality; biological makeup of the Canal; land uses; and socio-economic matters. Students were divided into three teams, each assigned to one of three subdivisions of the Canal. At regular intervals, each team undertook a series of measurements at sites representative of both natural and disturbed areas. Following the initial work,

Dick Nichols, Director  
Information Services

the teams were rotated and the surveys repeated to provide comparative data under different seasonal conditions.

All material collected during the research effort, as well as a series of papers and graphic displays dealing with specific subjects are included in the final report and data appendix.

"This project was primarily a learning experience for students and the report should be considered in that light and not as a professional research document," Kormondy said. "It is, however, a document which reflects sound research and which provides, at the least, some much needed baseline studies on the biology of Hood Canal. A number of key problems have been identified and doubtless many will serve as independent study projects for future Evergreen students.

"As a faculty, we are indeed gratified by the individual progress made by each student whose effort is presented--it is really their work."

Kormondy added that the Hood Canal project "demonstrated the feasibility of active cooperation between two federal organizations and a state institution of higher learning, the feasibility of students making substantial contributions to an on-going scientific research project, and the motivating power of student involvement with a real problem."

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