

State of Possession Sound (SOPS) Update



EVERETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S OCEAN RESEARCH COLLEGE ACADEMY

SOPS Cruise 54 August 29, 2012



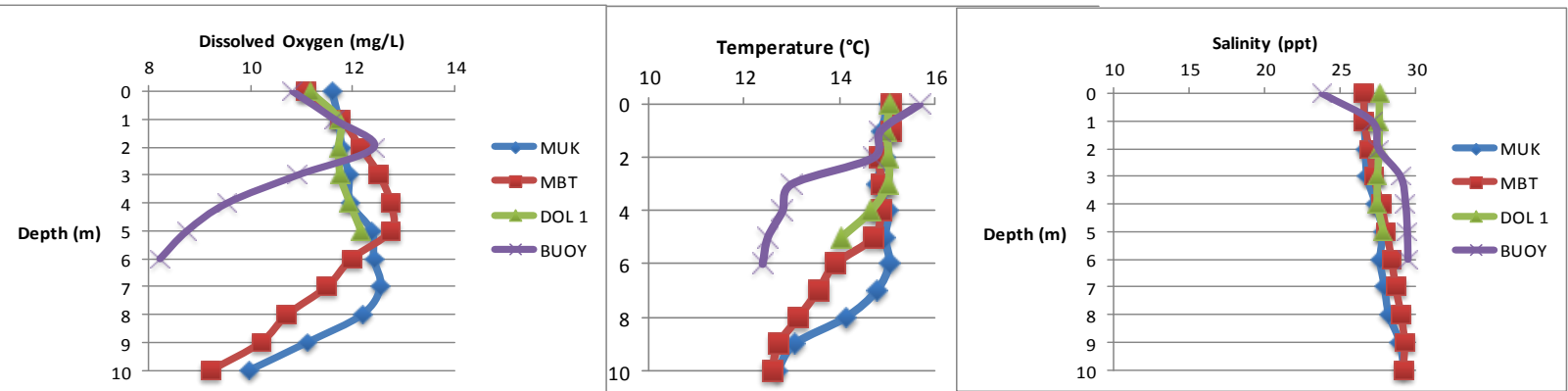
Another beautiful day for a SOPS cruise was further highlighted by the arrival of a new boat and engine for ORCA! Thanks to our new partnership with the Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative (CCURI) out of Finger Lakes Community College, we were able to get a 15 ft. inflatable boat and a 30 hp engine. This boat will support increased research opportunities around the Snohomish River Drainage Basin.



Ardi on the new boat for sea trials in front of the ORCA campus. Cohort 4 alumni and Beth from CCURI observing birds at enroute to Buoy.

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Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature and Salinity (DOTS)



No rain for nearly 40 days and reduced run off created uniform salinity conditions in the water column from surface to 10 meters. Temperature shows some stratification due to surface warming in the top six meters. D.O readings were high and so were relative chlorophyll concentration levels due to phytoplankton productivity.

ORCA alumni joined our skeleton crew of Cohort 8 students to work with the teachers on board. Recent Cohort 7 graduates Sophia, Anna, Paul R. and Cici worked with Splashcam and Plankton while Cohort 4 alum Paul P. helped out with birds and mammals (photo on page 1).

Sediment samples (1st photo) were hard to come by with the large tidal exchange making it difficult to get the Ponar grab to close due to a sharp line angle. Sediment samples were delivered to the Everett Environmental Laboratory on the new boat!

