Mission: To inspire stewardship of the Puget Sound by providing learning opportunities about the environment to the people of our local communities.

Vision: To be a catalyst for environmental education contributing significantly to our community’s understanding of the environment in which we live and our impact on the Puget Sound.

Harbor WildWatch experienced many changes in 2010. Harbor WildWatch expanded existing programs into new communities and implemented new efforts to make programs more self-sufficient. Harbor WildWatch is fulfilling its mission to provide educational opportunities to the public regarding stewardship of Puget Sound. While the environmental community continued to experience a decreased availability of grants, new Board members brought vision and skills to the table. Together, we are working to broaden Harbor WildWatch’s financial base, expand its marketing campaign, energize the volunteer recruitment program. We also enlisted new training techniques that maximize efficient use of funds and meet the growing need for science education in and out of the classroom.

2010 Program Changes

• The Harbor Outreach Program (HOP) expanded into two new school districts, Tacoma and Puyallup. Four new workshops covering three important topics: Wetlands (4th – 8th); Classification (5th – 8th); Marine Invertebrates (K-8th); and an Introduction to Classification (K-2nd) were added

• Pier into the Night, our wintertime outreach program, developed a successful partnership with the City of Gig Harbor to coordinate events. This allowed Harbor WildWatch a unique opportunity to reach a new and expanded audience.
• The curriculum for seaStars & Beyond was restructured. Now advanced students are equipped, and have the opportunity, to demonstrate their learned knowledge and respect for Puget Sound with the public.

• Harbor WildWatch increased the availability and variety of training for adult volunteers. This helps enrich the Get Your Feet Wet (GYFW) program.

• Fees were requested for Harbor WildWatch programs and participants. Requesting a financial investment from those receiving education (volunteers, participants in seaStars and Beyond, and schools) recognizes the value of marine environmental education.

• Two educational tools were used to promote Harbor WildWatch, which attracted donations: the Puget Sound’s Wildside naturalist guide and a new greeting card set that was created by students in the seaStars & Beyond program.

2010 Program Successes

Harbor WildWatch reached 18,267 people through 426 environmental programs and workshops

• Harbor WildWatch conducted 69 beach programs reaching 7,428 visitors.

Get Your Feet Wet is Harbor WildWatch’s capstone outreach and interpretative program. Available to the community, they are presented at our area’s public beaches and docks during the summer low tide season. The Get your Feet Wet programs consisted of interpretive touch-tanks showcasing intertidal marine life that was collected earlier from the beach. The touch-tanks were supported by naturalist lead interpretive beach walks while youth and adult volunteer interpreters carefully staffed the touch-tanks. Resources were available at each program to encourage our visitors to identify and research species discovered during their beach visit.

The Harbor WildWatch seaStars & Beyond program provided 42 youth, and their parents, opportunities to be directly involved in the stewardship of their local community’s natural resources through education and hands-on experience. These students, who were recommended by their teachers earlier in the school year, participated in 11 intensive, marine, and environment focused workshops led by teachers and naturalists. The curriculum for 2010 was
revised to give seaStars & Beyond students an expanded, more in-depth, and interactive experience at all levels. After completing their training, participants in this program were able to volunteer as youth interpreters in the Get Your Feet Wet beach programs.

One of Harbor Wild Watch’s goals for the seaStars & Beyond program was to become financially self-sustaining. To meet that goal, Harbor WildWatch instigated a participation fee. While some financial support was made available, when necessary, this fee was readily accepted and has brought the seaStars program closer to its goal of self-sufficiency.

*HOP provided 340 workshops providing 7,758 student hours of instruction.*

The **Harbor Outreach Program** (HOP) delivers a two-fold science resource: 1) Aids teachers who feel uncomfortable teaching expanded science topics in their curriculum, and 2) Aids schools that no longer have science specialists as a result of budget cuts. Harbor WildWatch offered 15 different, grade appropriate, and teacher/naturalist led topics in 2010. Three of these workshops were new additions for 2010 and cover the middle school level. All of Harbor WildWatch’s HOP workshops are aligned with the Washington State Science Learning Standards. This year, new grant funding allowed us to expand our HOP offerings into two additional school districts, Puyallup and Tacoma, complementing our core services area within the Peninsula School District.

*Pier into the Night offered 8 programs and contacted 2,556 individuals.*

Harbor WildWatch’s **Pier into the Night** program offers a unique experience which allows our visitors to see what is in the marine environment beneath the dock at night. These well attended events allowed Harbor WildWatch to reach new segments of the population that may not typically attend summer beach events. To maximize participation, Harbor WildWatch coordinated these programs with the city of Gig Harbor’s downtown celebrations such as the concerts in the park, Halloween, and the holiday tree lighting.
Financial integrity supports stewardship of the Puget Sound

The Harbor WildWatch board of directors is dedicated to carrying out the mission and vision of the organization through:

1) Careful management of the resources of the organization,
2) Ongoing recruitment of volunteers and additional directors,
3) Robust efforts toward financial stability, and
4) Strong collaborations with other like focus groups.

Pushing forward in a difficult financial climate, Harbor WildWatch acknowledges the need to dedicate resources to its core services, maximize efficiency, implement cost saving measures, and remain open to new funding opportunities.
Moving toward this goal, Harbor WildWatch approved the following measures:

- Added a $150 seaStars participation fee (seaStars & Beyond Program)
- Added a $120 sunStars participation fee (seaStars & Beyond Program)
- Added a $35 Jr. Naturalist participation fee (seaStars & Beyond Program)
- Requested a service fee for HOP programs (Harbor Outreach Program)
- Requested a participation fee for volunteers

As a result of increased program revenue and careful management of expenses, our 2010 revenue exceeded our expenses by $2,007. This will increase our reserves and be used to support programs in 2011.

**Public Outreach**

Harbor WildWatch published *Puget Sound's Wildside* in 2009 to educate the public about our local marine environment. In 2010, Harbor WildWatch highlighted specific chapters of the book to educate the public and to encourage use of *Puget Sound's Wildside* as an educational resource. Presentations were made at the following locations and dates:

1) **Timberland Library**, in Olympia, on August 5th focusing on geology, species highlights, and the effects of human impacts on marine organisms and processes.

2) **Borders Bookstore**, in Gig Harbor, on November 20th focusing on echinoderms and the effects of human impacts to the marine environment.

Harbor WildWatch also participated in special events hosted by partner organizations in the local community. In addition to informing the public about the programs and services offered by harbor WildWatch, attendance at these events allowed us to develop and reinforce relationships.
with organizations, city agencies, and local citizens. These events included:

• Storming the Sound
• TNI Business Networking Mixer
• Donkey Creek Chum Festival
• Winterfest

Harbor WildWatch enjoyed excellent media coverage and support in 2010. The Peninsula Gateway newspaper ran several feature articles about Harbor WildWatch and our community programs.

KING 5 Television in Seattle aired an Evening Magazine segment highlighting Harbor WildWatch’s Get Your Feet Wet program.


Sunset magazine mentioned our Get Your Feet Wet program within an article showcasing Gig Harbor attractions.
The Board of Directors of Harbor WildWatch would like to express heart-felt gratitude to the generous funders, energetic partners, hardworking volunteers, and dedicated staff, without which none of this would be possible.

**Generous Funders for 2010**

- The Russell Family Foundation
- REI Employees
- Lu Winsor Grant
- The Washington State Combined Fund
- The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
- Individual Donors
- The Puyallup Watershed Counsel

**Our Partners and Collaborators during 2010**

- J.L. Darling Corporation – Scott Silver Hawkins
- The Gig Harbor YMCA – Kirstine
- Ocean Inquiry Project – Amy Sprenger
- Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce
- COSEE – Susan Bullerdick
- The Gig Harbor Waterfront Assoc. – Mary Desmarias
- Pierce County Streamteam – Isabel
- The Seattle Aquarium – Janice Mathisen
- Gig Harbor History Museum – Raglund
- Jennifer Kilmer
- People for Puget Sound – Gabby Byrne & Ann Butler
- KING 5 TV Evening Magazine – Michael King
- MK Smith
- Timberland Library – Olympia Branch
- Key Peninsula Parks
- Border’s Bookstore – Uptown Gig Harbor
- Gig Harbor Boat Shop
- Pierce County Library – Jeff Adams
- Alan Rammer
- ‘Raglunds’
- Friends of Pierce County
- People for Puget Sound
- Citizens for a Healthy Bay
- Kitsap County BeachWatchers
- All of our wonderful volunteers,
- students, and parents
- Gig Harbor Life – Charlee Glock-Jackson & Scott Turner
- The Gig Harbor Farmer’s Market Assoc. – Dale Schultz
The City of Gig Harbor – Laureen Lund, Sandi Anderson, Lisa Dawn-Stanton
Washington State Park rangers – Tom, Shawn, Janet, Dan, and Kristie and camp hosts
KGI Watershed / PC Surface Water Management – Barbara Ann Smolko
Foss Waterway Seaport – Jan Adams & Madhuri Hosford
Peninsula School District – Claudia Thompson & Terry Bouch
Puyallup School District – Andrew Schwebke & Nicholas Sutherland
Pacific Northwest Salmon Enhancement Group – Dan Hannafious & Michelle Myers