

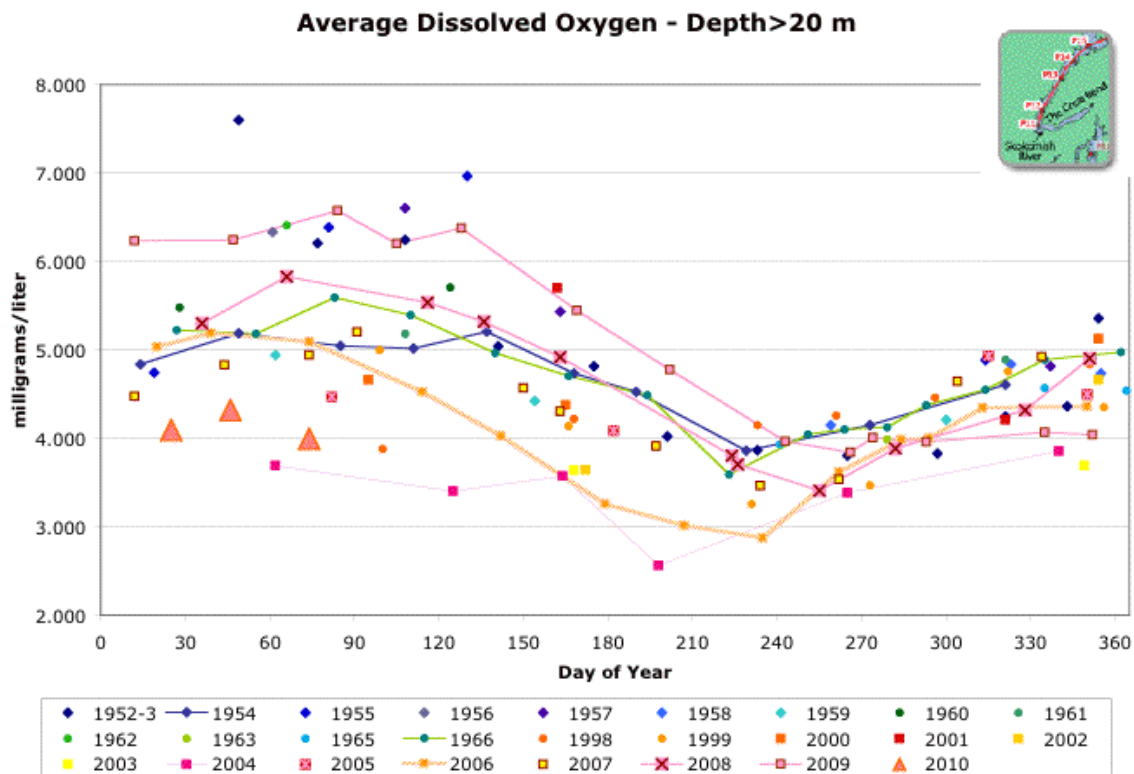


2010 StreamTeam Interns Named

Nine students have been selected for the StreamTeam Internship program this summer. Nick Barrantes, Caelan Colyer, Ariel Gower, and Nate May are returning interns. David Stock, Anne Gower, Kimi Wascher, Rachel Fujimoto, and Alyssa Jensen are new to the intern program. Each of them has been offered a paid summer internship conducting habitat inventory of the Hood Canal watershed. Upon completion of the internship, they will each receive a \$2500 scholarship to the college of their choice. The nine interns will gain valuable field experience through their stream survey work. They will have the opportunity to participate in other HCSEG projects as well. It should be a very exciting summer!

Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Lower this Winter

Oxygen values in Hood Canal have appeared to be uncharacteristically low for the winter to early spring of 2010. The HCDOP-NANOOS buoy near Twanoh has recorded the lowest oxygen values for that part of the year ever, based on the recorded data available. This year the average oxygen concentration in Hood Canal between Dabob Bay and the Great Bend has the lowest value seen in the records available for the months of January and February (1952-1966 historical UW data and 1998-2010 UW-PRISM and HCDOP data).



While this unusual oxygen condition is of interest, it is too soon to know if it is an indication that there will be severe hypoxia this summer and fall or have any impacts to aquatic life. In 2006, there were wide spread fish kills, but the year started with high average oxygen values. In 2004, there were low winter average oxygen values. Later that year, there were no major fish kills. It is too early to predict if conditions will continue, worsen, or improve.

The causes for low winter oxygen concentrations are likely related to the mild winter weather and a weaker gradient between the Pacific Ocean and Hood Canal. A dry winter leads to less flushing of water in the Hood Canal. The lack of storms leads to less mixing of the water.

HCDOP will continue to monitor this condition and advise to how this condition changes as the year progresses.



2-Year Old Steelhead Smolts Released

3500 steelhead smolts were released into the Dewatto River last week. The 2 year old fish were hydraulically pumped from steelhead redds (egg nests) in the spring of 2008. The release is part of a large scale effort to preserve the Dewatto steelhead run that has come dangerously close to extinction. Volunteering opportunities for this project and others are available right now. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Julie Easton at 360-275-3575 or Julie@hcseg.org.