Redfish 2018

The 2018 Redfish School of Change will take a cohort of nine Canadian and nine U.S. students on a four week, human-powered learning adventure through communities, waterways, and landscapes in the Salish Sea. Together, students will investigate social and environmental change, and design their own plans for a Community Action Project, to be completed in the year following the program.

Precourse: June 20 – 25: Western Washington University (and via Canvas). We begin the Redfish experience with a week-long immersive Leadership Retreat with Redfish Instructor Joe Loviska. This retreat will give context to environmental leadership in the Salish Sea and teach skills for the weeks ahead.

June 26 – 31: Salt Spring Island. We start an integrated study of restoring and re-indigenizing landscapes at Xwaaqw’um (Burgoyne Bay). Some of the rarest ecosystems in the region abound here, where a cultural resurgence is taking place.

July 1 - 6: Saanich Peninsula, Vancouver Island. We turn our attention to sustainable food systems and community building, engaging the settler community around permaculture, fisheries, and ecological restoration.

July 7 - 11: Anacortes and Padilla Bay. Crossing over to the US side of the Salish Sea, we travel by bike around Fidalgo Island, March’s Point, and Padilla Bay. Here we will take part in marine biology surveys, talk with representatives in the oil industry, and learn from the Swinomish tribe.

July 12 - 16: Sucia Island. A time to reflect and recalibrate. The whole of Sucia Island is a state park full of shell middens, tombolos, and chuckanut sandstone; here we will deepen our ethnobotanical studies, while beginning to synthesize what we have learned.

July 17 - 20: San Juan Island. We critically examine the settler story of the international border on San Juan Island, then we go see it from the water, paddling kayaks on Haro Strait.

July 21 – 24: Turning the Tide People’s Paddle. The last leg of our journey is a four day community kayak tour through the Southern Gulf Islands. Bringing together community leaders, activists, and organizers, this floating celebration is part conference, part activist training, and part pure fun.