



# King County's SciFYI



King County

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
Water and Land Resources  
Division

A digest of current natural science issues in King County

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## John A. Blaine

By Ben Budka, Supervisor,  
Environmental Laboratory Environmental Services Unit



After 31 years of service to Metro and King County, marine water and sediment expert John Blaine retired on April 1. John will leave King County with a number of significant accomplishments as his legacy, and he will be greatly missed by all those who worked with him.

John started with Metro in 1978, analysing microbiological samples at the West Harrison building in downtown Seattle. He progressed through a series of positions to become a Lab Scientist and the lead skipper of the R/V *Liberty* at the Lab. He worked on almost every type of water quality and sediment sampling effort during his lengthy career.

John's primary work with Metro/King County involved marine water and sediment projects. He was involved in the Seahurst studies, where he designed and implemented Metro's in-situ Conductivity, Temperature, Depth (CTD) profiler system.

He managed the field coordination of Metro's Waterfront Cleanup program; was involved in the initial planning stages of the Elliott Bay/Duwamish River Restoration Program; and since 1979 has been the Environmental Services Section technical coordinator for Metro's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Receiving Water Monitoring program and the King County Marine Ambient program.

John helped draft the original Puget Sound Estuary Program Protocols, found a more cost-effective and reliable way of ac-

curately positioning the *Liberty* during sampling operations for the Denny Way Capping Study, and managed field operations for the Duwamish Head Baseline Study.


John was an innovator and took the initiative to invent and develop Metro's one-of-a-kind in-situ large-volume particulate sampler. This sampler allowed us to collect uncontaminated suspended solids for organics analysis.

John also developed a customized, high-quality CTD system, including the necessary *Liberty* modifications for handling the CTD underwater package and topside support equipment. His technical expertise was on display during the research, development and eventually the purchases for our underwater Remotely-Operated Vehicle, a state-of-the-art acoustical Doppler system, and the installation of *Liberty's* Differential Global Positioning Systems.

John continuously developed safety programs for field staff at the lab and was a significant resource for all lab personnel and other staff at the: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington State Department of Ecology, and United States Army Corps of Engineers.

We wish him, his wife, Lauren, and children Emily and Ben all the best in the years ahead.

## About King County's Sci FYI

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