

Harper Estuary Restoration Project UPDATE

Community Meeting

January 28, 2025

Colby United Methodist Church



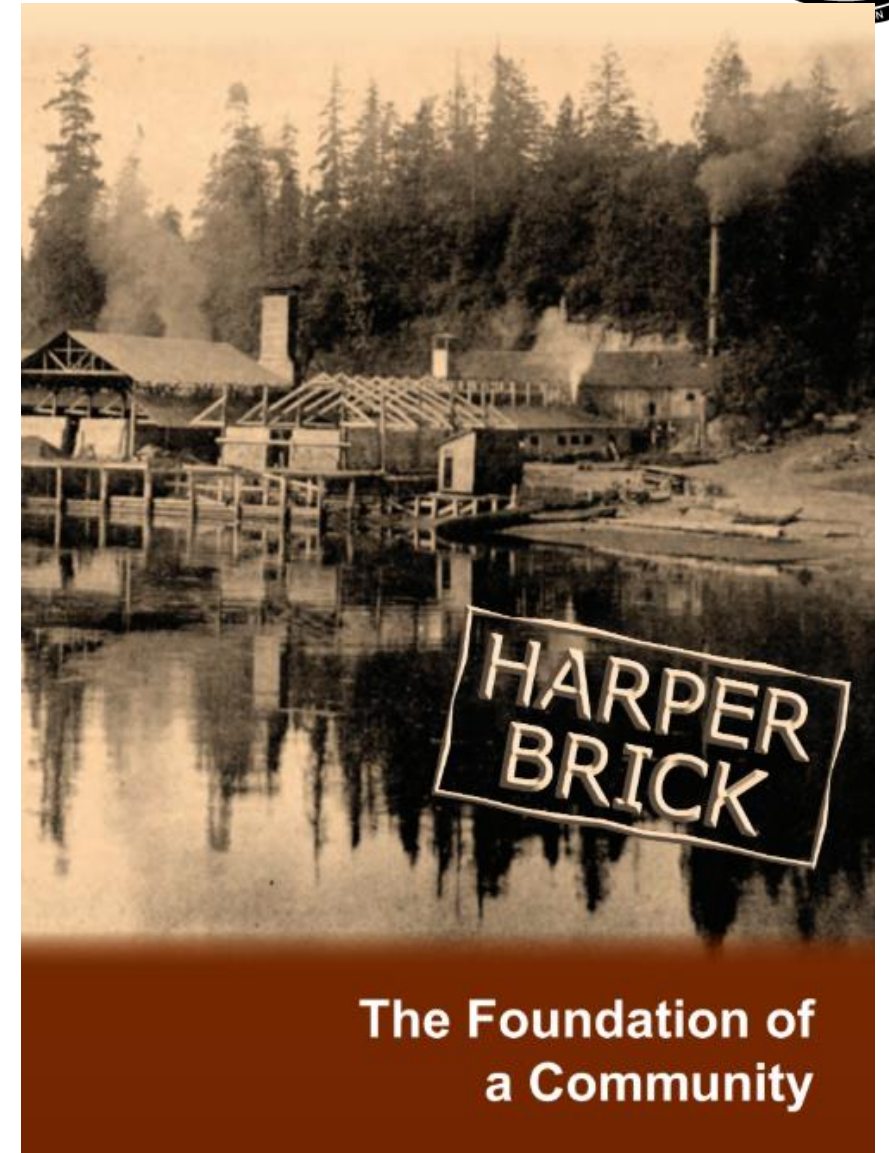
MEETING PROGRAM

Time	Topic	Lead
5:30	Welcome	Commissioner Oran Root
5:45	Project Overview and History Ecological Significance Progress and Status	Department of Community Development
	Bridge Design Construction Plans Traffic Impacts	Public Works - Roads
	Parks Access and Use	Parks Department
6:05	Questions and Answers	
6:30	Adjourn	

The Harper community has a rich history.



William "Chief" Chico and his sister, Mary Wilson, preparing their seasonal fishing harvest, near Port Orchard. Date ca. 1900. Courtesy of the Suquamish Museum.



The Harper community values stewardship and citizen science.



Western WA University, 2019



Washington Sea Grant 2020



WA Sea Grant 2020

Jim Heytvelt

Outstanding County Government Volunteer Award



Kitsap County Community Development

Project overview
Ecological significance
Project history and timeline
Project progress
Funding status

Brittany Gordon, Natural Resources Coordinator
Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobeh, Environmental Programs Planning Supervisor

Harper Estuary South Kitsap



Watershed and Estuary

- 640-acre Harper Creek watershed
- 2 miles of stream habitat
- Benefit fish and wildlife
- Saltwater wetlands and tidelands



Degraded Habitat Conditions

- Road construction through estuary
- Inadequate tidal exchange
- Fish passage barrier
- Debris & fill from brick factory
- Fill for boat launch



Project Goals

- Restore tidal processes and reclaim estuarine habitat
- Reduce road fill
- Improve flood resiliency
- Replace undersized culvert with bridge
- Maintain neighborhood connection and shoreline access



Project History & Timeline

2002 – US Army Corps interest in Harper Estuary restoration

2006 – Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group obtains grant for feasibility study

2012 – PSNERP study of nearshore habitat completed, identifies Harper Estuary as priority

2013 – Ecology, WDFW, Kitsap County begin planning estuary restoration work

2015 – Kitsap County obtains grant for bridge design; community meetings

2016 – WDFW completes Phase 1 of estuary restoration: Southworth Dr culvert replacement, remove bricks and non-native fill, wetland reconnection and habitat restoration

Project History & Timeline

2017 – Initial design completed; some permits obtained

2019 – Additional community meetings, park planning

2023 – Kitsap County obtains grant funding for bridge final design & construction from Federal Highway Administration via WSDOT

2024 – Complete final design & permitting

2025 – Kitsap County secures additional funding from US Navy, conduct community meetings, advertise for construction bids

Community Input Over the Years

- Public access to Puget Sound shoreline
- Healthy estuary, fish & wildlife habitat
- Public Safety
- Recreation for all ages
- Neighborhood connectivity
- Local history and culture
- Educational opportunities
- Community stewardship



Phase 1

COMPLETE

WDFW
Ecology
Kitsap County



Phase 2



SE Olympiad Dr Culvert Replacement with 120 ft Bridge

Project Progress 2025

- Final design completed
- All permits secured
- DNR Lease Agreement in progress
- Right of way and temporary construction easements in progress
- Plan to advertise for construction bids in fall 2025
- Bridge construction scheduled for summer 2026

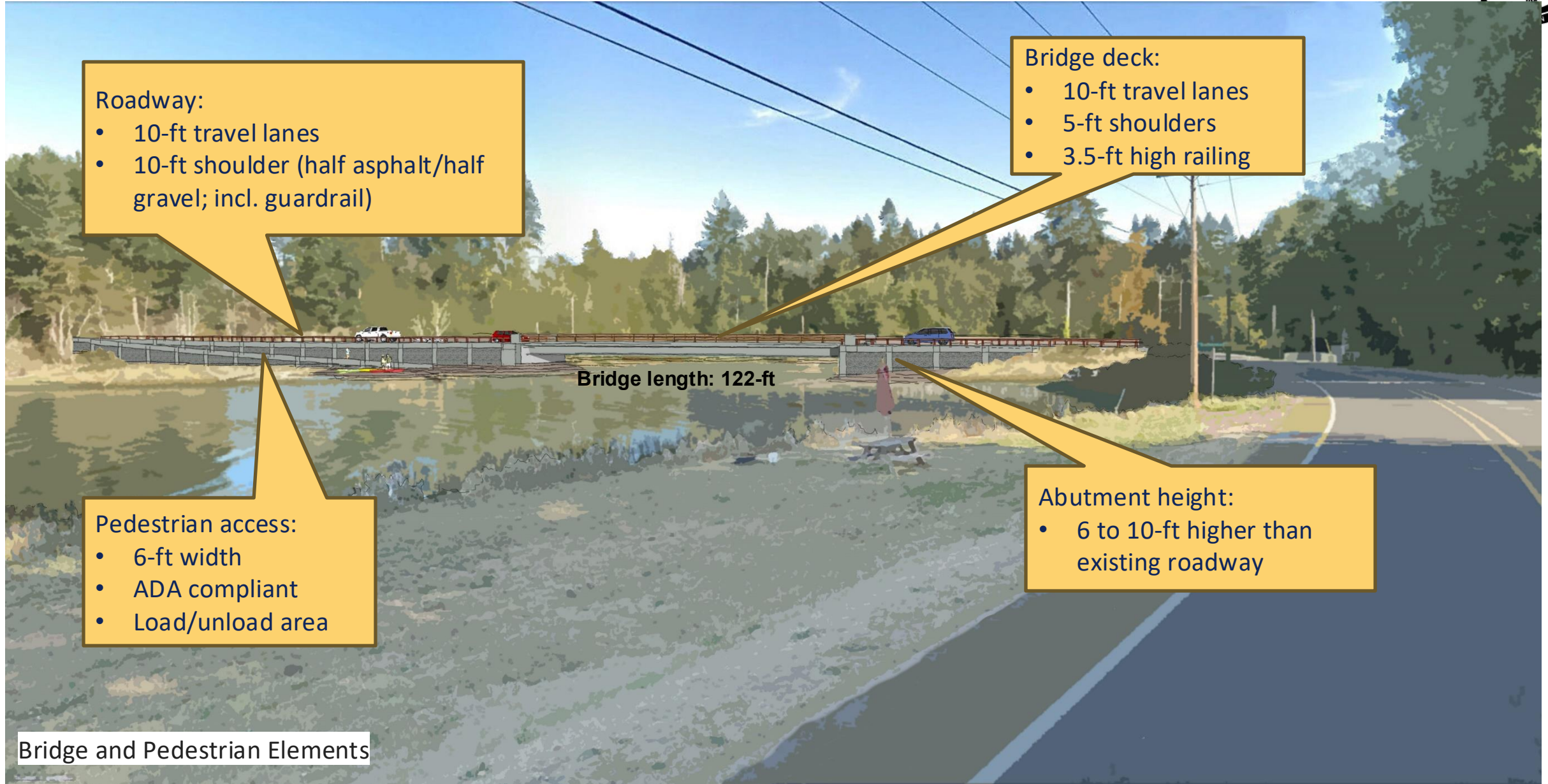
Funding Status

- **Total construction cost: \$8.5 million**
- **\$5.9 million** – PROTECT grant contributed by Federal Highways Administration
- **\$2.5 million** – Navy Resilience Fund FY25 – *approved January 2025*

Kitsap County Public Works - Roads

Bridge design
Construction schedule
Traffic impacts and duration

Michele Filley, P.E. - Capital Projects Manager



Bridge and Pedestrian Elements

Timeframes are estimates!





- ★ SE Olympiad Dr to be closed during construction
- ★ Traffic routed around on SE Southworth Dr
 - Detour in place throughout duration of bridge construction (Summer 2026 to Winter 2027)

Kitsap County Parks

Parks access and use during construction

Alex Wisniewski, Parks Department Director
Irene Weber, Natural Resources Program Supervisor

Impacts to Harper Park During Construction

- Park will remain open during construction
- Access to parking lot from Southworth Drive; Olympiad Drive will be closed

Harper Hill Park

Legend

-  Parking Lot
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Interpretive Sign
-  Trailhead
-  Streams
-  Trail
-  Road
-  Park Boundary



Kitsap County Parks Department
Created: 9/23/2019



0 0.05 0.1 Miles



Impacts to Harper Park During Construction

- Park will remain open during construction
- Access to parking lot from Southworth Drive; Olympiad Drive will be closed
- A portion of the parking lot will be used as a 'lay-down' (storage) area for construction materials
- 'Lay-down' area will be secured with temporary fencing

Construction Lay-Down Area
(approximate)



Questions and Answers...



Project Website:

<https://www.kitsap.gov/dcd/Pages/Harper-Estuary.aspx>



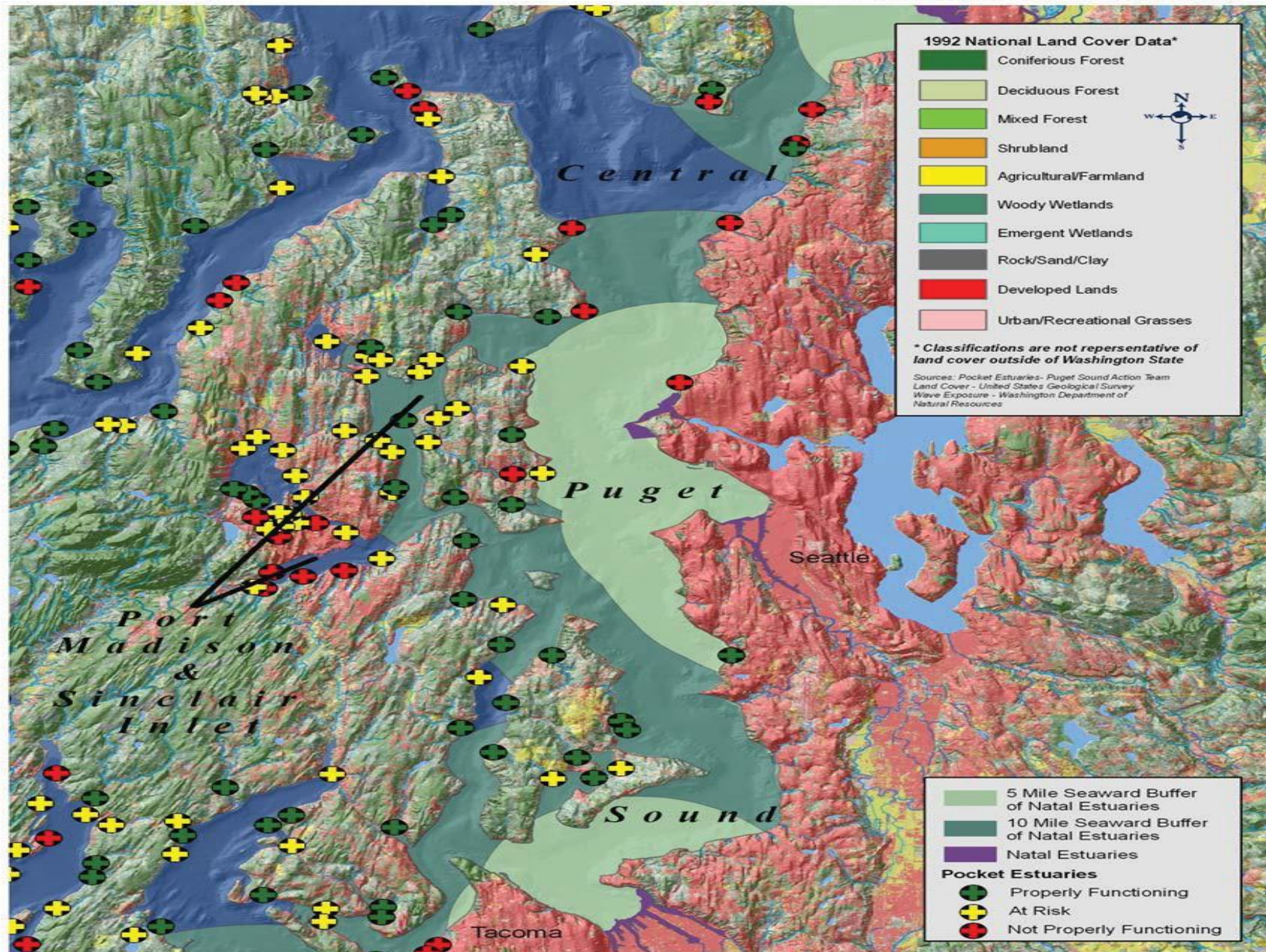
Project Contact: Michele Filley, P.E., Capital Projects Manager
Brittany Gordon, Natural Resources Coordinator

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360-337-5777 (Kitsap 1)

Landscape Functions

Central Puget Sound & Port Madison/Sinclair Inlet



Harper Estuary - 1876







































