

Northwest Straits INITIATIVE

partners in marine conservation



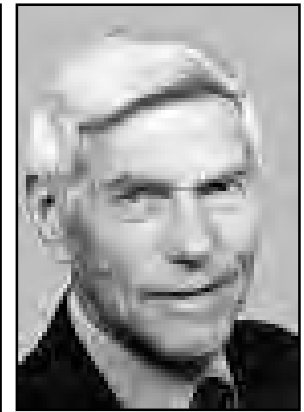
Twitter: @nwstraits

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwstraits

Instagram: @nwstraits

History of the Northwest Straits Initiative

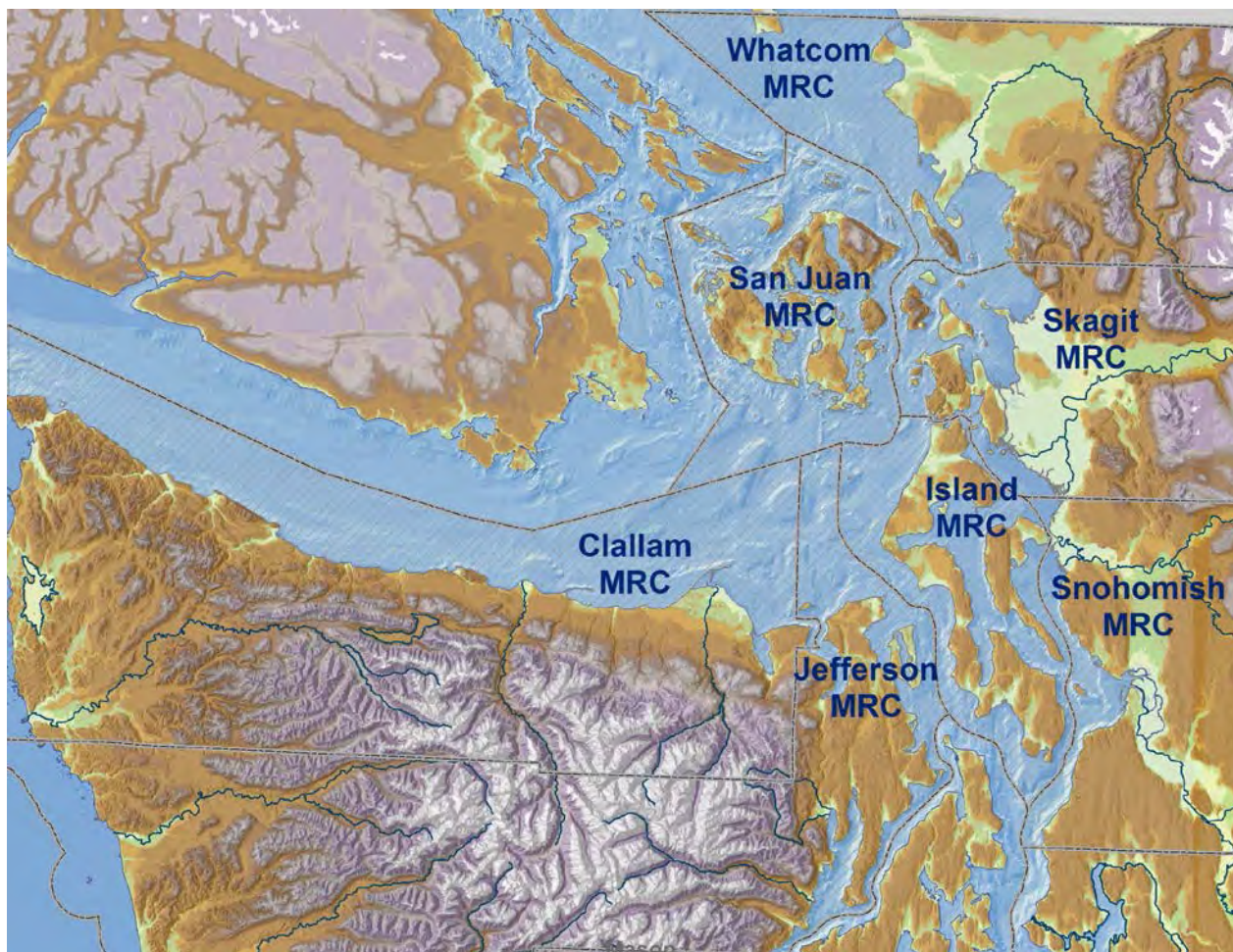
- NOAA Sanctuary proposed in 1980's
- U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D) and Congressman Jack Metcalf (R) -- The Murray-Metcalf Commission
- Congressional Authorization
- Bottom-up approach
- Modeled after San Juan MRC



Created to...

Protect and restore marine waters, species and habitats of the Northwest Straits to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use through a citizen-based approach.





Role of the MRCs

- Identify and communicate local priorities
- Design and carry out projects
- Advisory body to local government



- Provides base funding for MRCs
- Regional focus and strategic plan
- Data storage and sharing/ bibliography and Sound IQ
- Training and coordination among MRCs
- Integrates work with other regional programs



partners in marine conservation

- Non-profit organization - funding from public and private sources
- Leverages support for MRC projects, supplemental to the core (federal) support
- Manages state-wide derelict fishing gear removal program
- Manages large restoration projects
- Restoration-related workshops/ training

Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative

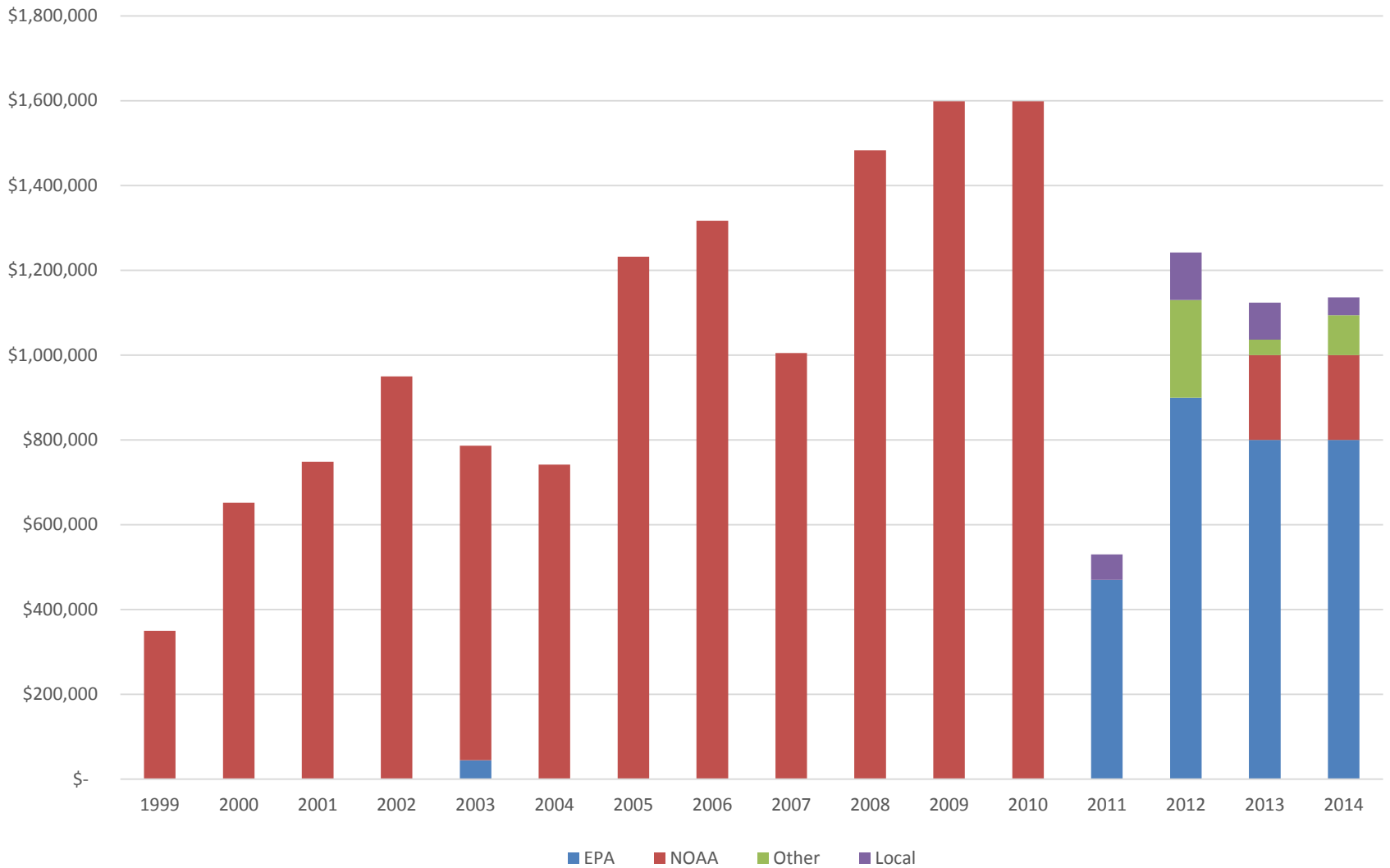


Marine Resources
Committees

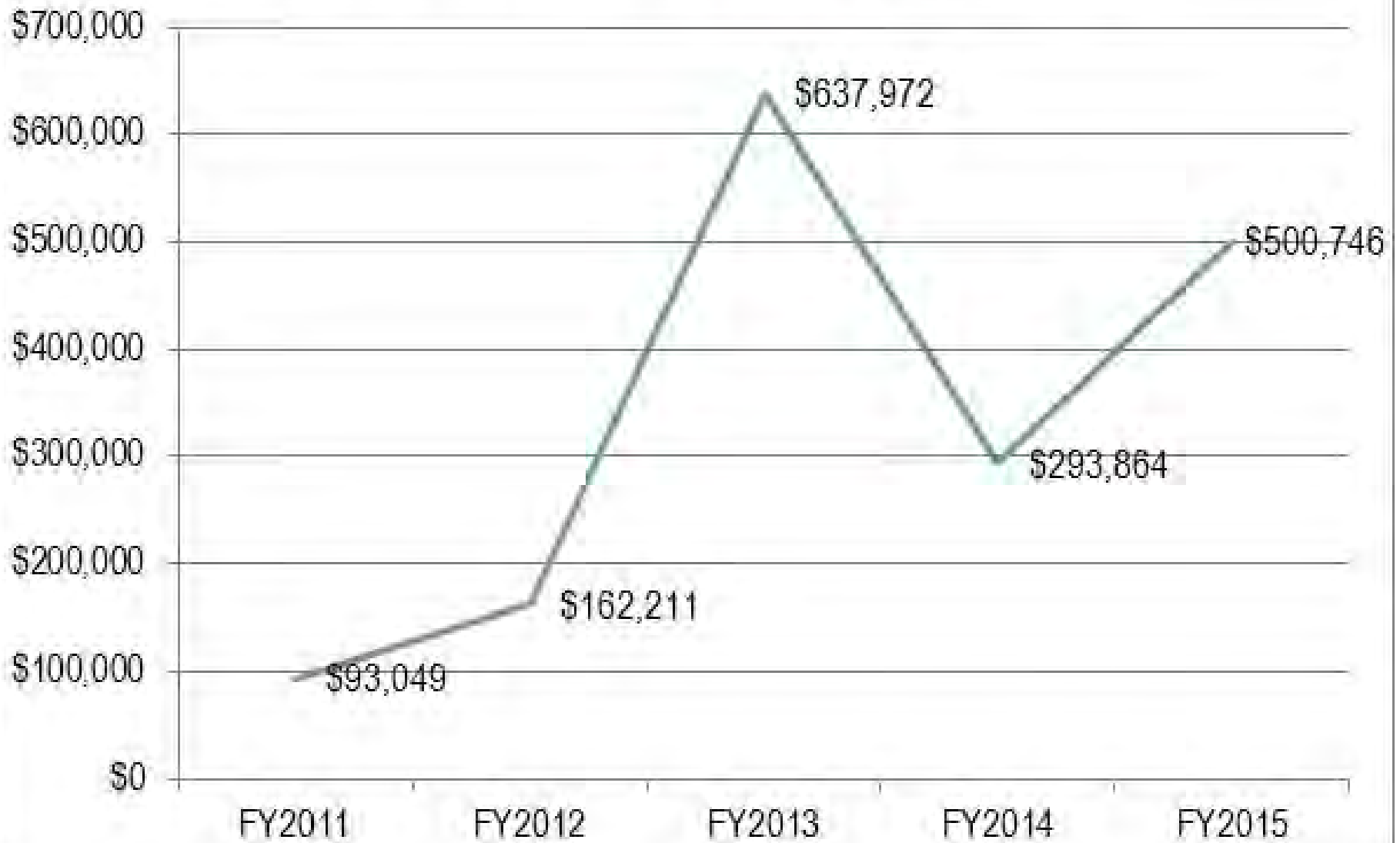


Whatcom • Clallam • Jefferson • Skagit • San Juan • Island • Snohomish

Northwest Straits Commission funding



Foundation MRC Support by Fiscal Year









SoundIQ

A PROJECT OF THE
NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION

Home



I want to...



Welcome to SoundIQ!


What can I do with SoundIQ?

SoundIQ allows you to search for Puget Sound-area information and create custom maps. This mapping interface is flexible and should work on desktop, tablet and phone devices.

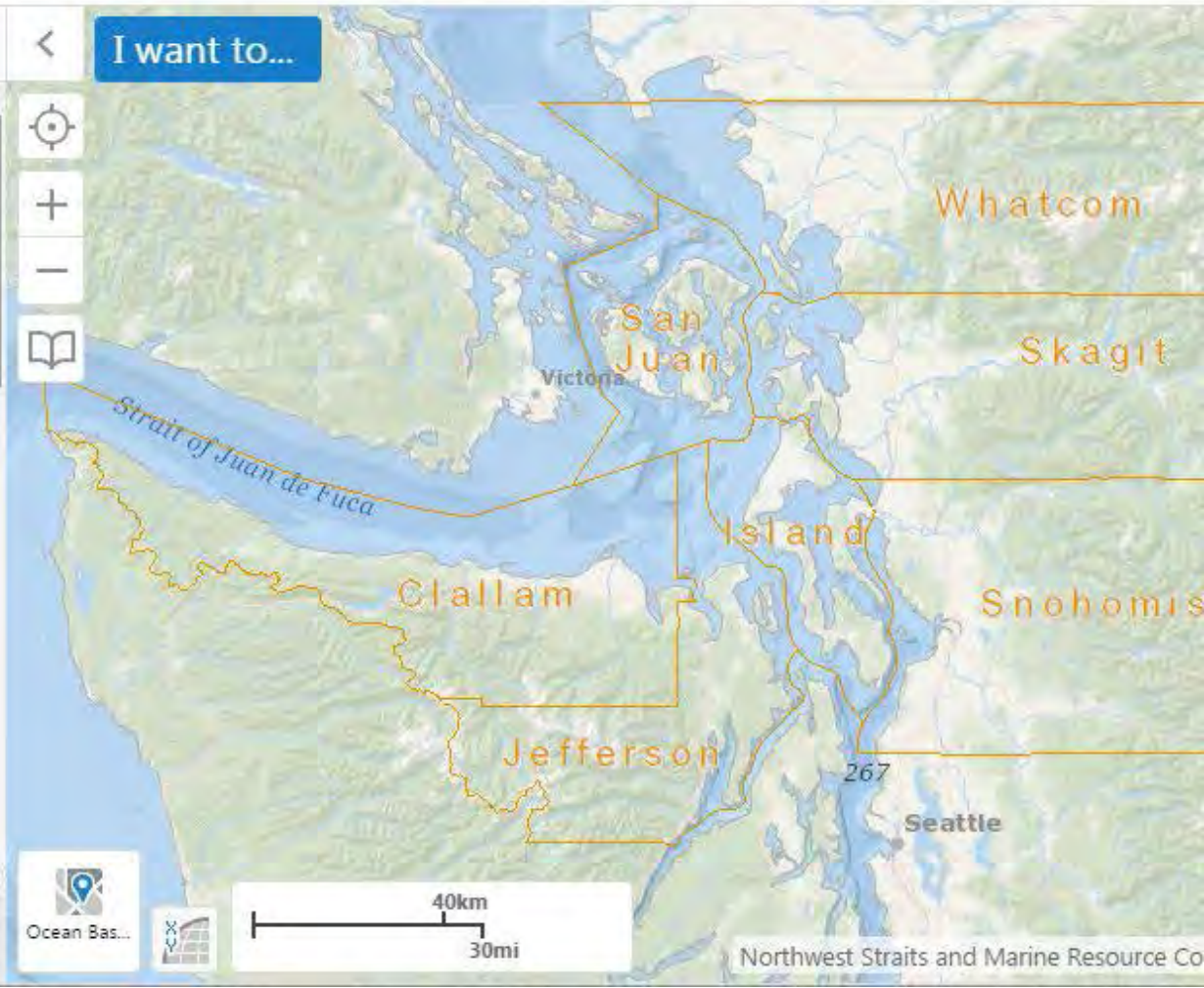
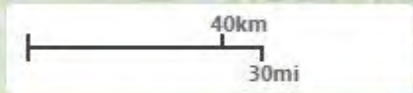
Among other things, you can:

 Find published MRC reports for a site

Use the I want to button and choose "Run a Beach Report", click on the map to select the area, and wait for the tool to finish. Your report will include relevant reports for that area.

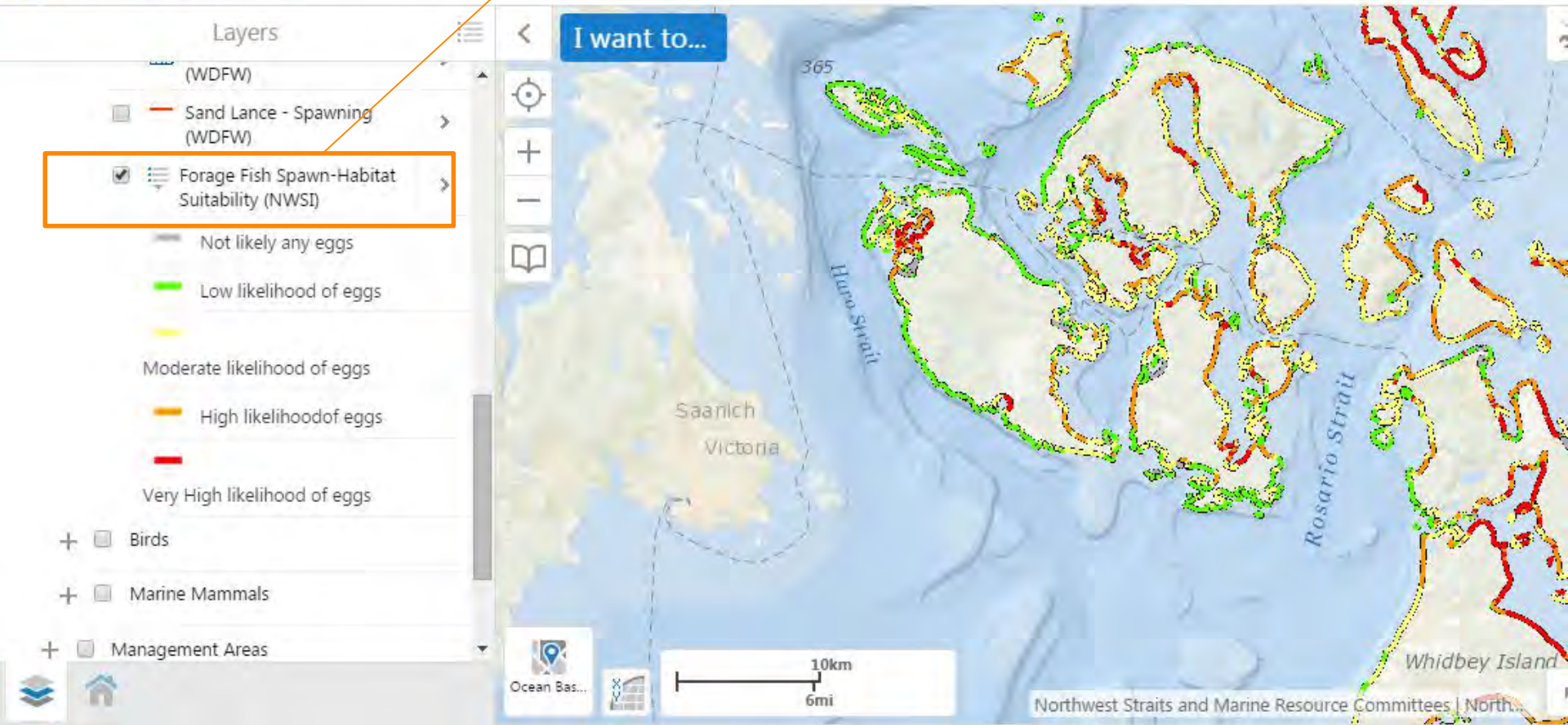
 Search for a location

Find map features and other results by using



Forage Fish Spawn Habitat Suitability

Search...



Marine Stewardship Area



Port Susan, Snohomish and Island counties

SHELLFISH



Photo credit: Stillaguamish Tribe

Status of 3 Action Items

2 action items
have progress

1 action item
has no progress

Highlights

The beaches between Kayak Point and Warm Beach in Snohomish County, and Triangle Cove, the largest pocket estuary in northern Puget Sound located in Island County, were upgraded in 2014 by WDOH as approved for commercial shellfish harvest.

Upcoming Work

The Stillaguamish Tribe has operated the Port Susan Remote Hydrolab Project for several years. The Hydrolab, attached to a buoy in Port Susan, collects a range of water quality parameters, including pH levels. Future work could help inform how shifting water quality conditions affect shellfish. Additionally, the Tribe is intending to test soft shell clam tissue in 2015 for a suite of potential toxins, now that the beds are open to harvest.

For more information about strategies and action items listed in this publication, contact Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County Public Works Surface Water Management, 425-388-6414, or visit the website at www.snocomrc.org.

SHOREBIRDS



Photo credit: Leanne F. Lundy

Status of 3 Action Items

3 action items
have progress

Highlights

In 2012, Port Susan was designated as a Site of Regional Importance by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSERN). This designation adds weight to the value of Port Susan as a bird haven, which is already classified as a National Audubon Important Bird Area. The Shorebird Reserve Network recognizes sites as Regionally Important if they host at least 20,000 shorebirds annually.

Upcoming Work

Snohomish County and Island County MRCs, as well as WSU Beach Watcher volunteers and Tribal members and staff, continue to be trained annually in oil spill response techniques. Minimizing oil spill effects is critical for the thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors utilizing the Port Susan ecosystem. Snohomish County MRC is now working with the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to integrate marine spill planning and preparedness into the county's spill response strategies and to participate in the new Statewide Vessel of Opportunity (VOO) Program.

Interpreter and translation services for non-English speakers, and accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Call Kathleen Herrmann, 425-388-6414. For questions regarding Public Works' Title VI Program, contact our Title VI Coordinator via email at spw-titov@sno.wa.gov, or phone 425-388-6860. Hearing/voice impaired call 711.

A solicitud, se dispone de servicios de intérprete y traducción para personas que no hablan inglés y acomodaciones para las personas con discapacidades. Llame a Kathleen Herrmann, 425-388-6414. Para preguntas concernientes al Programa del Título VI de Obras Públicas, póngase en contacto con nuestro Coordinador del Título VI mediante correo electrónico a spw-titov@sno.wa.gov, o llame por teléfono al 425-388-6860. Las personas con deficiencia auditiva o del habla, llamen al 711.



PORT SUSAN MSA PROGRESS REPORT

January 2012 – December 2014



Conservation Action Plan

Between 2009 and 2012, over 30 federal, state, local, tribal and non-profit partners worked to create a conservation action plan for the area associated with Port Susan. This plan is unique in that it addresses target species and habitats and looks to encompass a wide range of issues, strategies and contributors.

The final plan was adopted by the Snohomish County and Island County Marine Resource Committees, and Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes in 2012. The Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) was officially designated by the Snohomish County Council in 2014.

Strategies for Recovery

This progress report is intended to highlight partner progress since 2012 related to the six key strategies in the plan. The goals are to reconnect Port Susan partners, share and demonstrate the success that is occurring across the landscape, and galvanize new efforts.







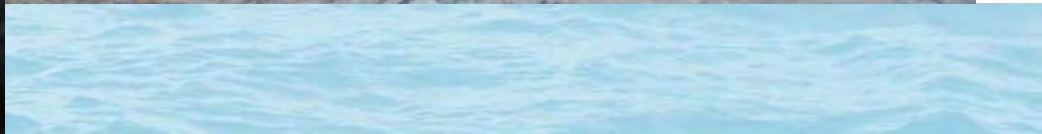
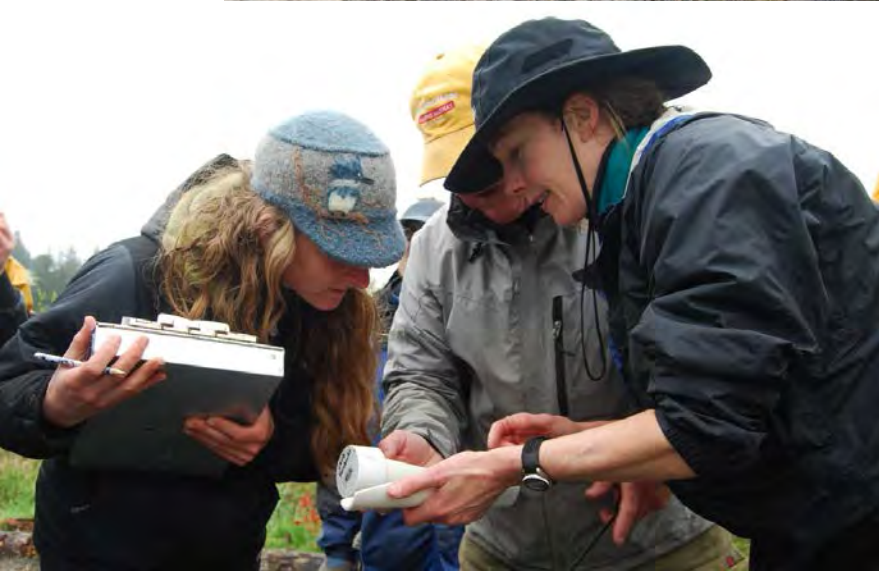
Protecting Port Townsend Bay

Port Townsend Bay is a vital part of our community, providing a source of clean water and a habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. To ensure the long-term health of the bay, it is essential that we take steps to protect its water quality and ecosystem. This includes reducing the amount of pollutants that enter the bay, such as oil, paint, and household chemicals, and properly disposing of these items. We encourage everyone to be responsible and to take the necessary steps to protect our bay for future generations.





Mud Bay, Bellingham



Bowman Bay







CLALLAM COUNTY MARINE RESOURCE COMMITTEE

A PARTNER IN PROTECTING THE MARINE RESOURCES OF THE COAST

BACKGROUND



The Clallam County Marine Resource Committee was established in 1992 as a part of the Clallam County Marine Resource Plan. The committee's mission is to protect and enhance the marine resources of the county. The committee is composed of representatives from the county, the state, and the local community. The committee's work includes monitoring the health of the marine environment, conducting research, and implementing conservation programs. The committee also provides educational programs for the public and works to raise awareness of the importance of marine resources.

CONSERVATION GOALS

1. Protect and enhance the marine resources of the county.

2. Monitor the health of the marine environment.

3. Conduct research on marine resources.

4. Implement conservation programs.

5. Provide educational programs for the public.

6. Raise awareness of the importance of marine resources.



A scenic lake with a sailboat, mountains, and wildlife. The scene is set in a lush, green environment with a large sailboat on the left and a person in a kayak on the right. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding landscape. Several ducks and birds are visible in the water and flying in the sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

CLEAN WATER

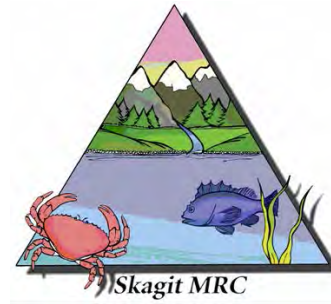
Wanna help?

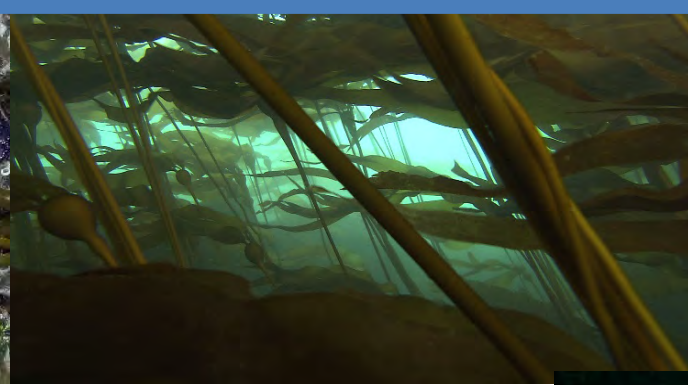
Pick up pet waste.
Dispose of medicines properly.
Check your car for oil leaks.

Jefferson County
Marine Resources Committee
jeffersonmrc.org



Jefferson County
**Marine
Resources
Committee**





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INITIATIVE

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