



Nan McKay

Reauthorization Contact
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The Northwest Straits Initiative

is a community-led collaboration working to protect and restore the marine environment of Northwest Puget Sound.

We are seeking permanent reauthorization of the Initiative

with an annual appropriation to continue critical marine restoration and conservation work.



The Northwest Straits region includes Clallam, Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties and their adjoining inland marine waters.

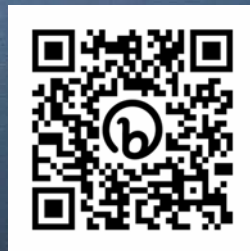


Photo credits: Jessica Owens, Aerial view of San Juan Islands and Blue Heron; Caroline Gibson, Sea star; Monica Montgomery, Boy on Beach and Group on Beach; Leah Robison, Regional Map and European Green Crab; Don Meehan, Kayaker.

Supported by all seven Northwest Washington county elected governments representing a population of over 1.4 million people

REAUTHORIZATION

AT-A-GLANCE

The Northwest Straits Region contributes to the:

16,000

jobs in WA state's commercial and recreational fishing industries

\$150

million in estimated economic output for WA state's aquaculture industry

Northwest Straits Initiative contributed to the:

430+

miles of forage fish spawning habitat identification

100

acres of restoration of Olympia oyster habitat



BENEFITS OF THE NORTHWEST STRAITS INITIATIVE



CITIZEN DRIVEN AND INCLUSIVE RESOURCE PROTECTION

- Inspiring residents of the Pacific Northwest to get involved in conserving and protecting Puget Sound through a community-based, **collaborative conservation effort**.
- We support local Marine Resources Committees in northwest Washington that **empower community engagement** and collaboration using a **science-based approach**.
- We **protect culturally important native species** by combating invasive species and restoring habitat.
- We **protect and restore the marine environment** of northwest Washington by collaborating with counties to deliver coastal restoration, education, and monitoring projects.

JOBS AND EQUITY FOR RURAL ECONOMIES

- Our work **benefits marine industries** and rural businesses that rely on a healthy Puget Sound.
- We create early career jobs for those who will become leaders in marine conservation and marine based industries.
- The Initiative builds **inclusivity and equity** by working with rural, diverse, and underserved groups.
- The Northwest Straits Initiative puts **science into action**, complementing the work of agencies and tribal co-managers.

LEVERAGING FEDERAL DOLLARS

- We leverage federal funds with philanthropic support, state, and county dollars to **magnify our impacts** on local engagement, job creation, equity, and collaborative conservation.