

# Protecting Port Susan's Diverse Resources



## Habitat in Port Susan

Port Susan has several important marine habitats that support a functioning marine food web and more than 200 types of plants and animals.

- ➔ Threatened species such as Chinook salmon and steelhead rely on these wetlands during their migration to the Pacific Ocean
- ➔ Eelgrass beds offer refuge from predators and a place for fish to acclimate from fresh stream waters to salt water
- ➔ Populations of forage fish such as herring provide an abundant source of food for shorebirds.
- ➔ Harbor seals attract transient orcas
- ➔ Burrowing shrimp in the mud flats supply a food staple for bottom-feeding gray whales

Since Time Immemorial, these lands and waters are and have been the ancestral homelands of the Tulalip Tribes and Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians. As such, these lands and waters remain a center of cultural knowledge, traditions, and history.

Maintaining access to traditional first foods like salmon and clams are essential to tribal sovereignty. Treaty rights reserved through the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott and affirmed through numerous court decisions secured tribal nations' rights to take fish and shellfish from waters and tidelands in all usual and accustomed places.





# A Shared Vision

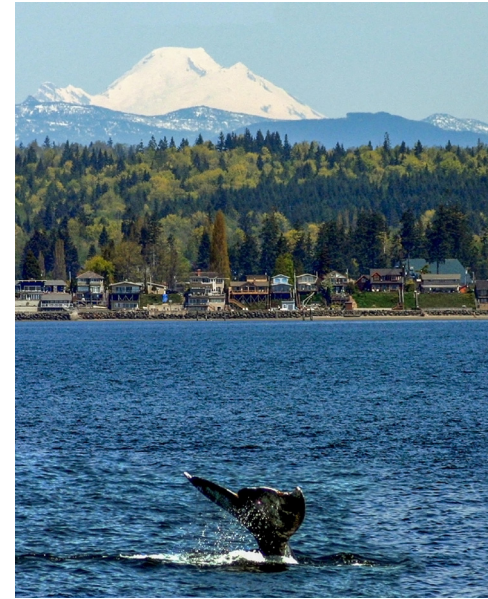
The Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) was established in 2014 through a partnership among the Snohomish and Island County Marine Resource Committees (MRCs), Tulalip Tribes, the Stillaguamish Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, Washington State University Extension of Snohomish and Island Counties, and Washington Sea Grant.

The MSA is a voluntary designation encouraging conservation of Port Susan's natural, cultural, and scenic values by inspiring government agencies, organizations, landowners, and citizens to take actions and advocate for the protection of these resources.

# Goals and Progress

## Conservation Action Planning

In 2012, Snohomish and Island County Marine Resource Committees in collaboration with partners created the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Conservation Action Plan. The plan serves as a key planning tool to outline conservation targets, threats, and strategies to achieve conservation goals at a local scale. For the last ten years, progress has been tracked through six conservation targets (see icons to the right). Other notable efforts in Port Susan led by MSA partners are shown in the graphics below.



### River Delta Restoration



**523** ACRES RESTORED



### Stream Restoration



THREE CULVERTS CORRECTED TO INCREASE FISH ACCESS TO OVER

**1.75** MILES OF STREAMS

### Public Outreach



NINE SHORE-FRIENDLY WORKSHOPS WITH OVER

**500** PARTICIPANTS

### Landowner Outreach



**100** SITE VISITS

TO ASSESS OPTIONS TO REDUCE SHORELINE HARDENING



### Dungeness Crab

**100+** DERELICT CRAB POTS REMOVED

INCREASE IN ESCAPE CORD COMPLIANCE (95% IN 2021)

## What You Can Do to Protect Port Susan

- Encourage natural soil filtration on your property
- Pick up and throw away pet waste
- Plant or retain trees for shade and filtration
- Get involved in neighborhood projects and reach out to your local Marine Resources Committee: [islandcountymrc.org](http://islandcountymrc.org) and [snocomrc.org](http://snocomrc.org)



For more detailed information about Port Susan and the status of conservation targets, visit the [Port Susan StoryMap](http://Port Susan StoryMap).



9 of 11 Strategic Actions have Progress

### Chinook Salmon



3 out of 7 Strategic Actions have Progress

### Beaches/Forage Fish



7 out of 9 Strategic Actions have Progress

### Dungeness Crab



2 out of 3 Strategic Actions have Progress

### Shellfish



1 out of 4 Strategic Actions have Progress

### Shorebirds



2 out of 3 Strategic Actions have Progress