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VOLUNTARY SHELLFISH PROTECTION ZONE



Welcome To Mystery Bay

The Voluntary No-Anchor Zone protects local clam and oyster beds, and allows everyone to continue feasting on shellfish fresh from Mystery Bay. This protected area is marked by buoys with the logo shown at right.



Valuable Resources

Mystery Bay is a prolific shellfish area and is the site of many tribal shellfish beds and commercial shellfish operations. The Bay is also home to a small salt marsh, an over wintering area for diving ducks, sand lance spawning habitat, and eelgrass. Eelgrass provides shelter and food for young salmon. Healthy eel grass means larger salmon runs in the future.

The Bay was Being Loved to Death

Mystery Bay is a popular destination harbor for traveling boaters, visited almost continually since at least the late-1700s. Clams and oysters are filter feeders and can concentrate disease-causing organisms. Too many boats increased the risk of water pollution and the shellfish harvests were threatened. In addition, eelgrass is at risk every time a vessel drops anchor into the fragile vegetation, uprooting plants and causing damage that takes years to recover.

Finding Balance

To save the Bay's bounty state agencies, local government and local organizations worked together to limit the number of mooring buoys. The Marine Resources Committee installed buoys marking the Voluntary No-Anchor Zone. Mystery Bay State Park provides dock and moorage space for visiting boats. Visiting boaters cooperate by respecting the Voluntary No-Anchor Zone, and, of course, by using pump-out stations. This combination of responsible acts helps all of us protect the shellfish harvest and eelgrass beds, reduce pollution, and keep Mystery Bay a beautiful and wonderful place to live and visit.

