

2005-2007 Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee Projects



KAYAK POINT NEARSHORE STEWARDSHIP
Native vegetation along the shoreline at Kayak Point was sparse until recently. The MRC restored vegetation to shade forage fish spawning grounds, and to serve as a demo site for restoration and education in high-traffic areas. The MRC will continue to monitor and enhance this project.



DERELICT GEAR REMOVAL
Removing derelict fishing gear is a high priority for maintaining the health of the county's Dungeness crab fishery. This collaboration with the Northwest Straits Commission and the Tulalip Tribes will help preserve the county's Dungeness crab population and maximize the crab resource's economic benefits.



PICNIC POINT NEARSHORE STEWARDSHIP
Thousands of people play at the Picnic Point beach every summer, and the park has seen significant impact because of this use. The MRC has begun restoration measures at the park, and has already removed over 2.5 tons of non-native English ivy and a number of creosote logs. In 2005, the MRC completed a long-term stewardship plan including an analysis of potential restoration projects, and will begin implementing this plan.



EELGRASS MAPPING
The MRC has already mapped eelgrass along Snohomish County's intertidal zone, and is now mapping the subtidal extent of eelgrass. By combining these two data sets, we will have a strong understanding of the extent of eelgrass along the county shoreline.



JUVENILE DUNGENESS CRAB PREFERRED HABITAT STUDY
The MRC is assessing juvenile Dungeness crab productivity and preferred nearshore habitat types to better understand how to protect the crab resource. This project is in partnership with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Tulalip Tribes and WSU Beach Watchers.

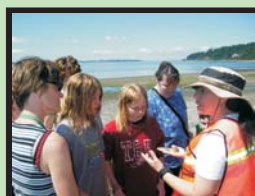


CREOSOTE LOG REMOVAL
Creosote logs have a harmful effect on nearshore habitat and are considered carcinogenic. The MRC is working to inventory and remove these logs along the entire Snohomish County shoreline. Project partners include Washington Department of Natural Resources, Puget Sound Action Team and WSU Beach Watchers.



WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT
The MRC is coordinating marine water quality sampling as a part of the Department of Ecology Beach Environmental Assessment, Communication, and Health (BEACH) Program in Snohomish County. Additionally, the MRC is compiling historic and current water quality data in marine watersheds throughout the county to identify potential pollution sources and additional monitoring needs.

Education



BEACH EXPOS
Snohomish County MRC and WSU Beach Watchers are partnering to educate the public about marine conservation issues at public beaches.



DUNGENESS CRAB STEWARDSHIP
The MRC is partnering with WSU Beach Watchers to distribute educational cards on Dungeness crab harvesting best management practices. Additionally, the MRC will partner with local crab fishing outfitters and commercial interests to promote the use of these practices.



SHORELINE LANDOWNER WORKSHOPS
The MRC is partnering with Puget Sound Action Team to develop and present two-day workshops to property owners along the county shoreline. These workshops will educate landowners about nearshore conservation processes and conservation issues, and give information on how to improve habitat on their properties.

