



**NORTHWEST STRAITS**  
marine conservation foundation

NOAA semi-annual progress report

## Derelict Fishing Gear Removal in Puget Sound

Award #NA09NMF4630322

Prepared by:

Northwest Straits Foundation

January 27, 2011

# Performance Progress Report

## NOAA Restoration Center, Office of Habitat Conservation

			Page	of Pages
1. Federal Agency and Organization Element to Which Report is Submitted  NOAA Fisheries		2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency		3a. DUNS Number
				3b. EIN
4. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including zip code)			5. Recipient Identifying Number or Account Number	
6. Project/Grant Period Start Date: <i>(Month, Day, Year)</i>		7. Reporting Period End Date <i>(Month, Day, Year)</i>	8. Final Report? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			9. Report Frequency <input type="checkbox"/> <i>annual</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>semi-annual</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>quarterly</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other</i>	
10. Performance Narrative <i>(see instructions)</i> :				
11. Other Attachments <i>(see instructions)</i> :				
12. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.				
12a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official			12c. Telephone <i>(area code, number and extension)</i>	
			12d. Email Address	
12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official  <i>(submitted electronically via Grants Online)</i>			12e. Date Report Submitted <i>(Month, Day, Year)</i>	



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4. Reporting Period End Date (Month/Day/Year)		Page      of      Pages

### Continuation of Performance Progress Report Cover Page

(1) Label	(2) Additional Information on Grantee and Project	(3) Provide Information Requested:
2-01	Project Title	
2-02	Federal Program Officer's Name	
2-03	Project's Main Contact Person – Name	
2-04	Project's Main Contact Person – Title	
2-05	Project's Main Contact Person - Email	
2-06	Project's Main Contact Person- Phone No.	
2-07	Organization website ( <i>if applicable</i> )	
2-08	Project Location: City	
2-09	Project Location: County	
2-10	Project Location: State	
2-11	Land Ownership ( <i>check one</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both
2-12	Geographic Coordinates ( <i>in decimal degrees if readily available</i> )	<div>_____ Longitude (X-coordinate)</div> <div>_____ Latitude (Y-coordinate)</div>
2-13	Are there multiple project sites for this award?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2-14	List of Project Partners	
2-15	List of Target Species (e.g., coho salmon, blue crab, striped bass, Olympia oyster, etc.)	



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## B. Performance Measures

(1) Measure Number or Label	(2) Objective/Goal Description	(3) Measure	(4) Baseline	(5) Target Year	(6) Project Target	(7) Actual To Date (cumulative)	(8) Explanation

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## B. Performance Measures

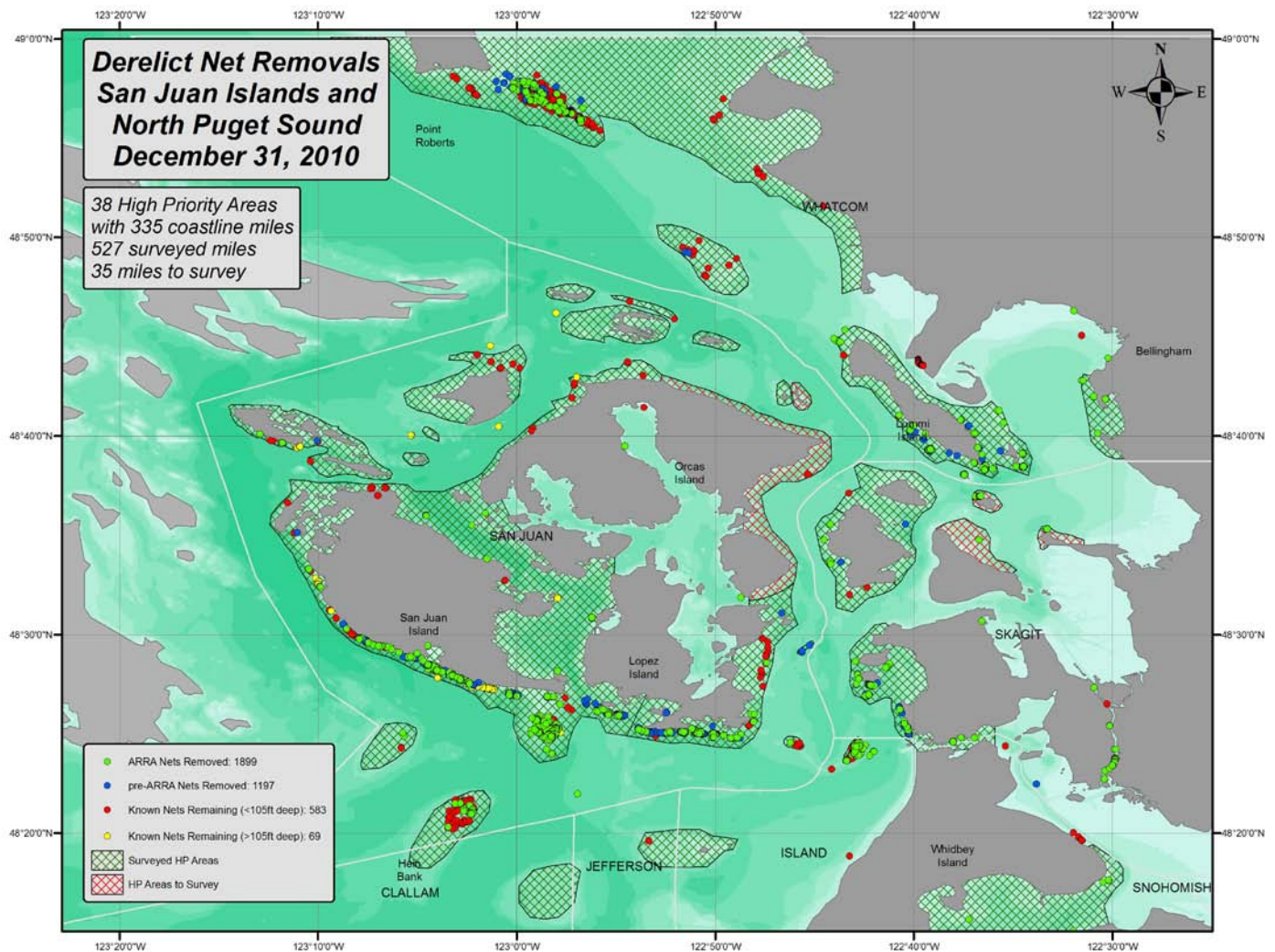
(1) Measure Number or Label	(2) Objective/Goal Description	(3) Measure	(4) Baseline	(5) Target Year	(6) Project Target	(7) Actual To Date (cumulative)	(8) Explanation

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4. Reporting Period End Date (Month/Day/Year)					Page      of      Pages	
<b>C. Table of Activities and Funding</b>						
(1) Expenditure or Label	(2) Expenditure Description	(3.1) Total Approved NOAA Funds	(3.2) Total Approved Match Funds	(3.3) NOAA Funding Expended (Cumulative to Date)	(3.4) Match Funding Expended (Cumulative to Date)	(3.5) Match Source
C. (4) Please explain any deviations from approved budget. NOTE: Some budget changes require prior approval. (e.g., To date, our budget has been executed as outlined in our application narrative that was approved by the NOAA Grants Officer.)						

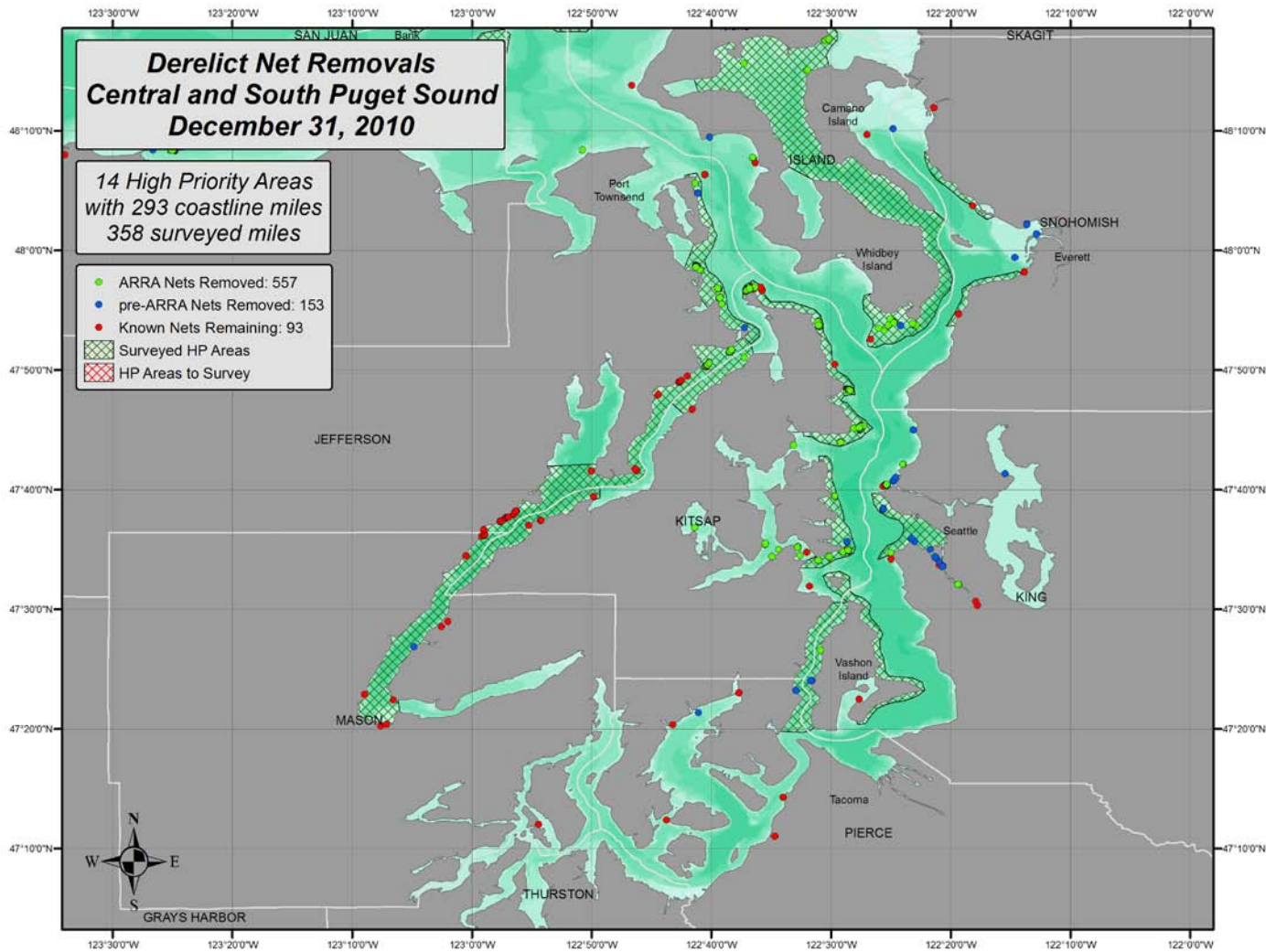


Attachments to semi-annual progress report for Derelict Fishing Gear Removal in Puget Sound  
Award #NA09NMF4630322  
January 30, 2011

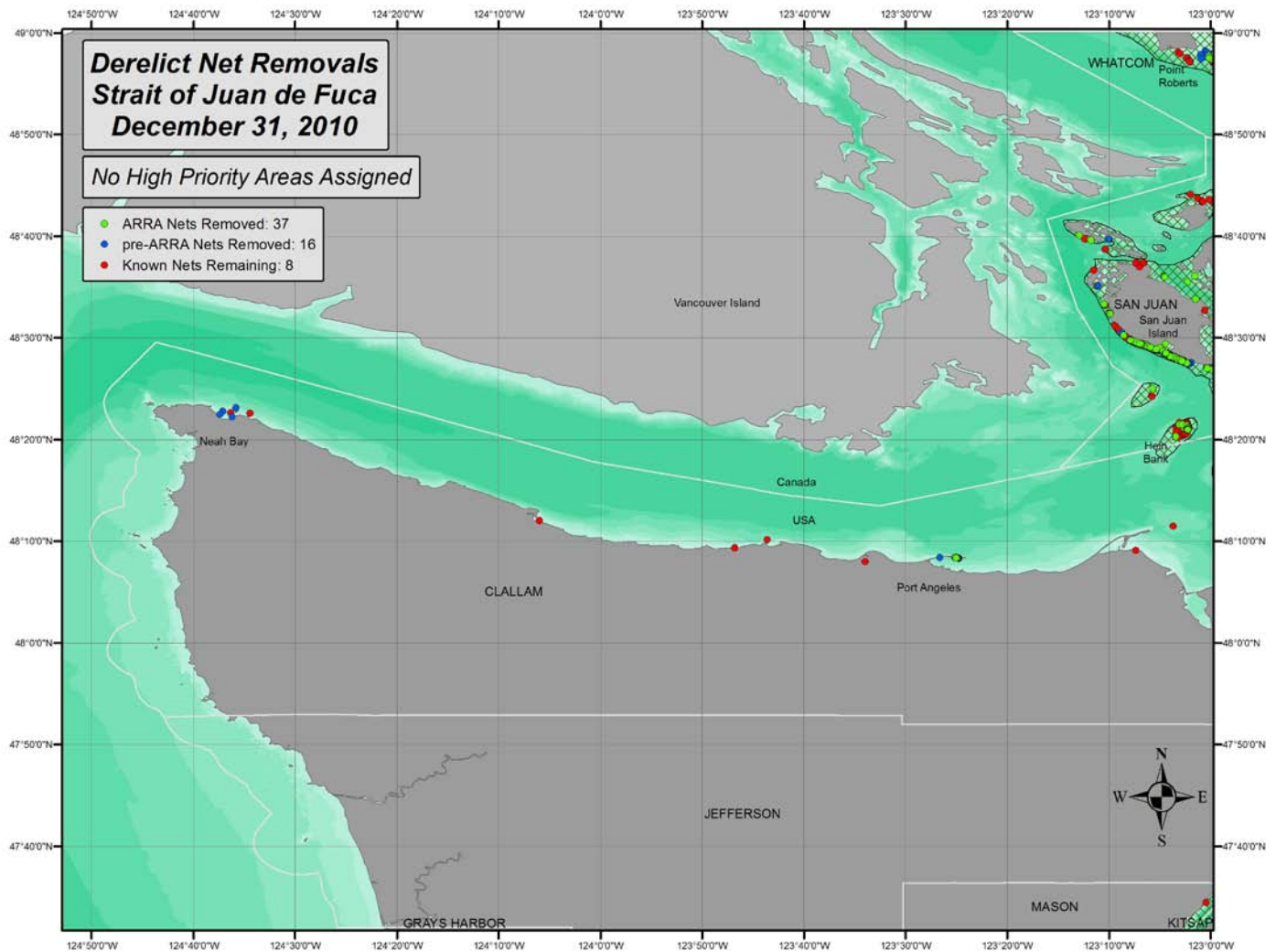
Map 1. Derelict nets removed pre-ARRA project and during the ARRA project and known to be remaining in northern Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands.



Map 2. Derelict nets removed pre-ARRA project and during the ARRA project and known to be remaining in Central and South Puget Sound and Hood Canal.

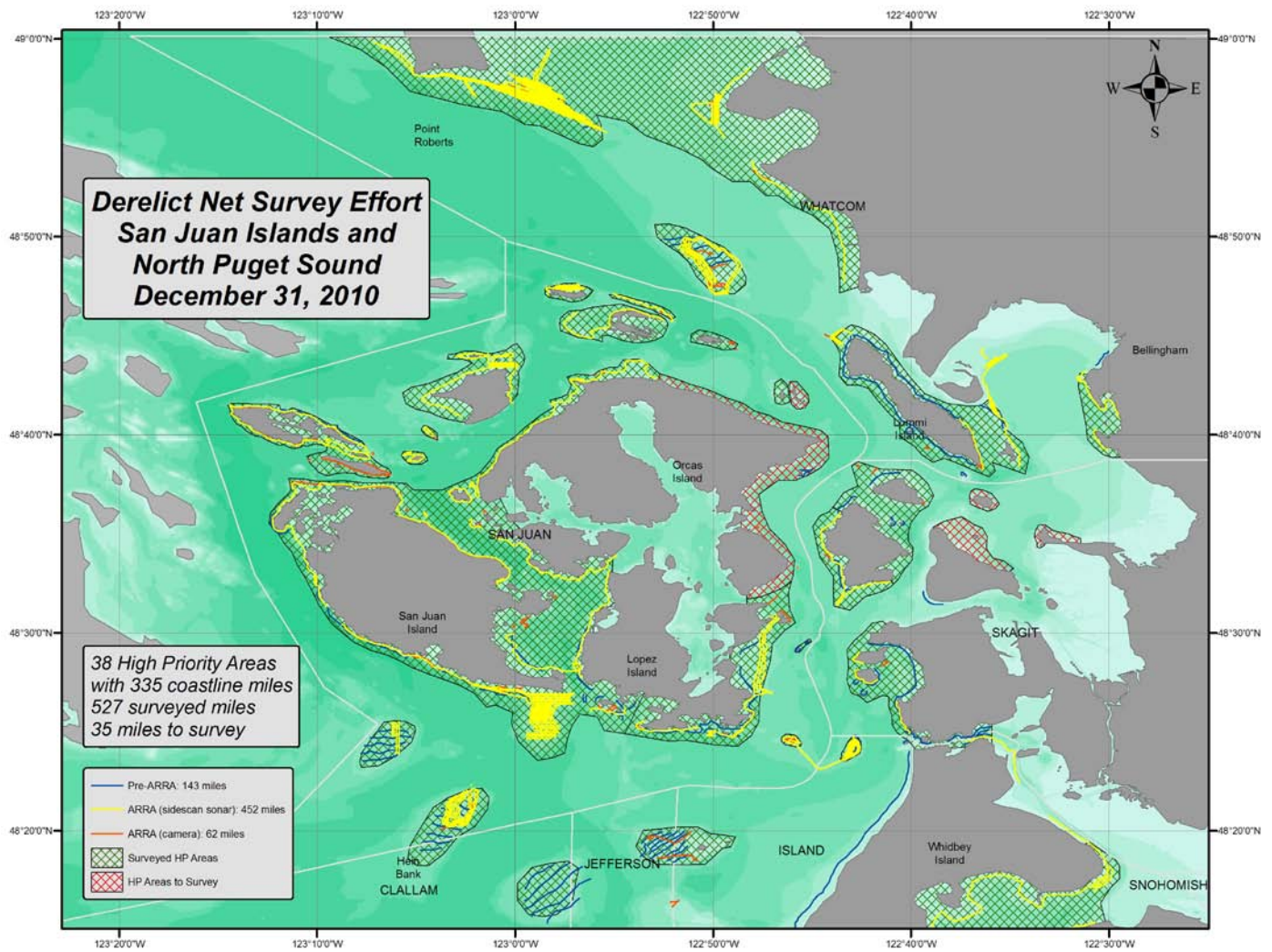


Map 3. Derelict nets removed pre-ARRA project and during the ARRA project and known to be remaining in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.





Map 4. High priority areas surveyed and remaining to be surveyed pre-ARRA project and during the ARRA project in northern Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands.



Map 5. High priority areas surveyed and remaining to be surveyed pre-ARRA project and during the ARRA project in Central and South Puget Sound and Hood Canal.

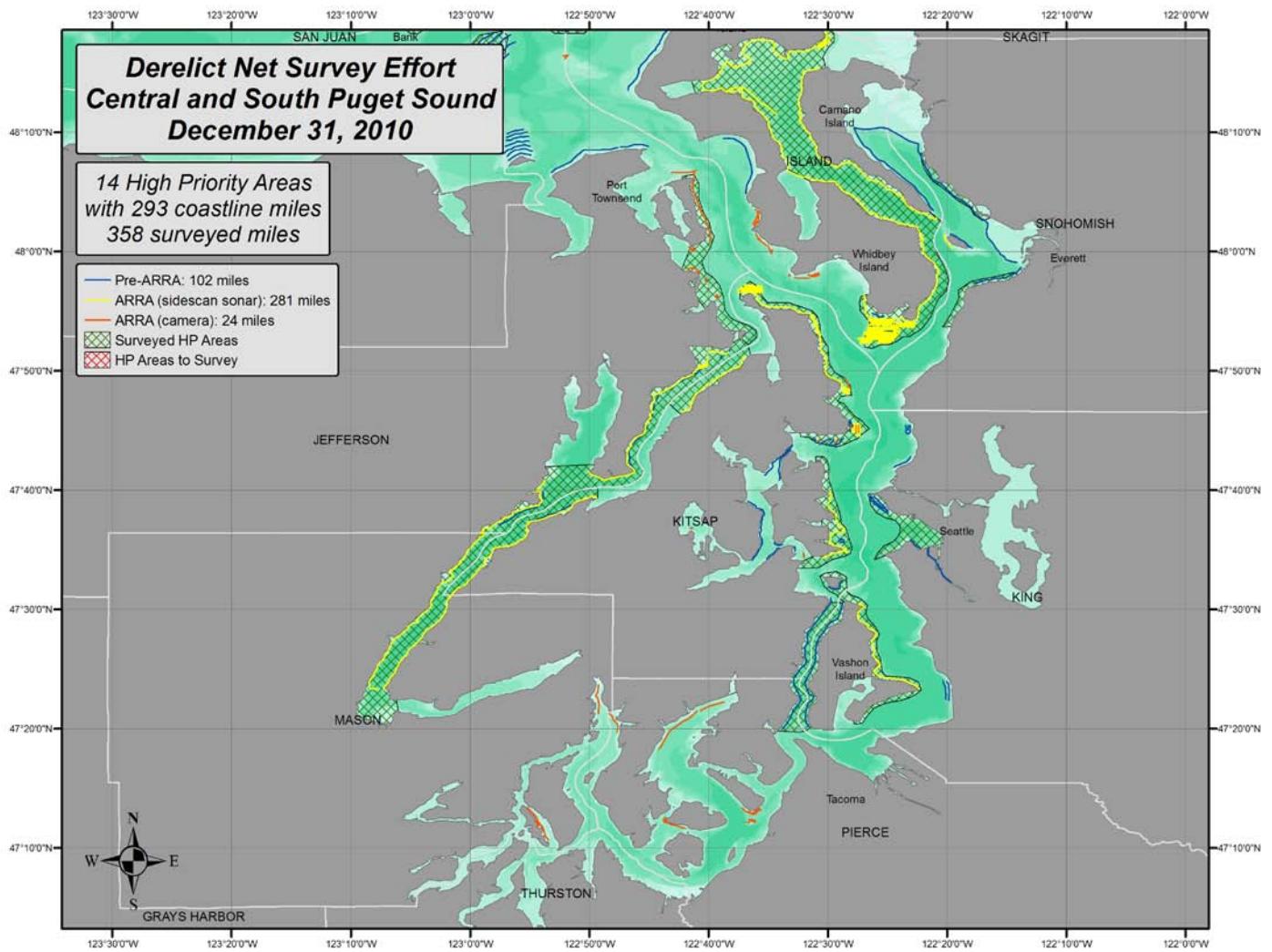


Table 1.0 Projected number of Animals Entangled Annually by 2,493 derelict nets removed through December 31, 2010

<b>Group</b>	<b>Annual catch /2,493 nets</b>	<b>Examples of species found entangled</b>
Marine Mammals	316	Harbor porpoise, Harbor seal, river otter
Birds	4,025	Cormorants, grebes, murre, pigeon guillemots
Fish	21,558	Canary and other rockfish, salmon, lingcod
Invertebrates	1,488,565	Dungeness crab, octopus, geoduck, Puget Sound king crab
Total	1,514,464	

Table 2.0 Acreage of habitat restored by type

<b>Habitat Type</b>	<b>Total Habitat Area (sq ft) Recovered</b>	<b>Total Habitat Area (acres) Recovered</b>
boulders on sand/mud/gravel	3,392,294	77.88
high-relief rocky substrate	1,522,973	34.96
low-relief rocky substrate	3,277,067	75.23
mud/sand/gravel/vegetation	1,693,178	38.87
underwater obstructions	224,365	5.15
aquatic vegetation	6,000	0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,115,877</b>	<b>232.23</b>

Table 3.0 Animals found in recovered derelict gear from project start through December 31, 2010

Species Group	Species Local Common	Species Scientific	Sum Number of Dead	Sum Number of Alive	Total
Mammal	Harbor Porpoise	Phocoena phocoena	1	0	1
Mammal	Harbor Seal	Phoca vitulina	10	0	10
Mammal	river otter	Lontra canadensis	1	0	1
<b>Mammals Total (3 species)</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
Bird	Brandt's Cormorant	Phalacrocorax penicillatus	38	0	38
Bird	Bufflehead	Bucephala albeola	1	0	1
Bird	Cormorant unid.	Phalacrocorax sp.	14	0	14
Bird	Cormorant unid.	Phalacrocoracidae sp.	3	0	3
Bird	Murre unid.	Uria sp.	3	0	3
Bird	Pelagic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax pelagicus	75	0	75
Bird	Pigeon Guillemot	Cepphus columba	1	0	1
Bird	Red-necked grebe	Podiceps grisegena	1	0	1
Bird	seabird unid.		16	0	16
Bird	Swans	Cygnus	1	0	1
<b>Birds Total (7 species)</b>			<b>153</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>153</b>
Fish	Arrowtooth flounder	Reinhardtius stomias	1	0	1
Fish	big skate	Raja binoculata	2	8	10
Fish	black rockfish	Sebastes melanops	5	3	8
Fish	buffalo sculpin	Enophrys bison	52	4	56
Fish	cabezon	Scorpaenichthys marmoratus	31	10	41
Fish	canary rockfish	Sebastes pinniger	1	0	1
Fish	cartilaginous fish unid.	Chondrichthyes sp.	8	0	8
Fish	China rockfish	Sebastes nebulosus	0	1	1
Fish	Chum salmon	Oncorhynchus keta	1	0	1
Fish	copper rockfish	Sebastes caurinus	4	2	6
Fish	decorated warbonnet	Chirolphis decoratus	0	15	15
Fish	English sole	Parophrys vetulus	0	2	2
Fish	fish unid.		26	0	26
Fish	flatfish unid.	Pleuronectidae sp.	1	1	2
Fish	great sculpin	Myoxocephalus polyacanthocephalus	31	6	37
Fish	greenling unid.	Hexagrammos sp.	7	1	8
Fish	Irish lord unid.	Hemilepidotus sp.	4	2	6
Fish	kelp greenling	Hexagrammos decagrammus	32	15	47
Fish	Kelp rockfish	Sebastes atrovirens	1	0	1

Species Group	Species Local Common	Species Scientific	Sum Number of Dead	Sum Number of Alive	Total
Fish	lingcod	Ophiodon elongatus	111	10	121
Fish	northern ronquil	Ronquilus jordani	1	2	3
Fish	Pacific sanddab	Citharichthys sordidus	2	0	2
Fish	plainfin midshipman	Porichthys notatus	1	0	1
Fish	Puget Sound rockfish	Sebastes emphaeus	0	2	2
Fish	quillback rockfish	Sebastes maliger	18	8	26
Fish	red Irish lord	Hemilepidotus hemilepidotus	18	15	33
Fish	righteyed flounder	Pleuronectidae	2	0	2
Fish	rock sole	Lepidopsetta bilineata	3	0	3
Fish	rockfish unid.	Scorpaenidae sp.	1	0	1
Fish	rockfish unid.	Sebastes sp.	2	0	2
Fish	sailfin sculpin	Nautichthys oculofasciatus	1	3	4
Fish	salmonid unid.	Oncorhynchus sp.	5	0	5
Fish	sculpin unid.	Cottidae sp.	1	1	2
Fish	skates	Rajiformes	3	0	3
Fish	spiny dogfish shark	Squalus acanthias	94	15	109
Fish	spotted ratfish	Hydrolagus colliei	23	6	29
Fish	staghorn sculpin	Leptocottus armatus	0	10	10
Fish	starry flounder	Platichthys stellatus	85	32	117
Fish	Sturgeons (white)	Acipenser sp.	1	0	1
Fish	tidepool sculpin	Oligocottus maculosus	1	0	1
Fish	wolf eel	Anarrhichthys felis	1	0	1
Fish	Yellowtail rockfish	Sebastes flavidus	1	0	1
<b>Fishes Total (31 species)</b>			<b>582</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>756</b>
Invertebrate	basket star	Gorgonocephalus eucnemis	0	4	4
Invertebrate	bat star	Asterina miniata	0	1	1
Invertebrate	bent nose macoma	Macoma nasuta	12	2	14
Invertebrate	black clawed shore crab	Lophopanopeus bellus bellus	1	4	5
Invertebrate	black katy chiton	Katharina tunicata	0	5	5
Invertebrate	black-eyed hermit	Pagurus armatus	0	45	45
Invertebrate	blood star	Henricia leviuscula	73	2537	2610
Invertebrate	blood worm	Glycera americana	0	58	58
Invertebrate	blue mussel	Mytilus trossulus	30	32	62
Invertebrate	blue topsnail	Calliostoma ligatum	40	1089	1129
Invertebrate	blunt gaper	Mya truncata	2	0	2



Species Group	Species Local Common	Species Scientific	Sum Number of Dead	Sum Number of Alive	Total
Invertebrate	bread crumb sponge	Halichondria sp.	0	15	15
Invertebrate	brittle star unid.	Ophiuroidea sp.	2	90	92
Invertebrate	butter clam	Saxidomus gigantea	17882	217	18,099
Invertebrate	Butterfly crab	Cryptolithodes typicus	0	2	2
Invertebrate	California sea cucumber	Parastichopus californicus	35	4,671	4,706
Invertebrate	California sunset clam	Gari californica	12	0	12
Invertebrate	channelled dogwinkle	Nucella canaliculata	0	4	4
Invertebrate	checkered periwinkle	Littorina scutulata	0	1	1
Invertebrate	clam worm	Nereis vexillosa	0	104	104
Invertebrate	clown doris	Triopha catalinae	10	169	179
Invertebrate	common Pacific octopus	Enteroctopus dofleini	0	3	3
Invertebrate	coonstriped shrimp	Pandalus danae	30	159	189
Invertebrate	cryptic kelp crab	Pugettia richii	51	7940	7991
Invertebrate	cushion star	Pteraster tessellatus	0	26	26
Invertebrate	daisy brittle star	Ophiopholis aculeata	0	1480	1480
Invertebrate	dark mahogany clam	Nuttallia obscurata	2	0	2
Invertebrate	dire whelk	Lirabuccinum dirum	22	184	206
Invertebrate	Dungeness crab	Cancer magister	1496	590	2086
Invertebrate	fat henricia	Henricia sanguinolenta	0	1	1
Invertebrate	frilled dogwinkle	Nucella lamellosa	11	42	53
Invertebrate	geoduck clam	Panopea abrupta	282	79	361
Invertebrate	giant barnacle	Balanus nubilus	15440	10452	25892
Invertebrate	giant dendronotid	Dendronotus iris	0	1	1
Invertebrate	giant Pacific chiton	Cryptochiton stelleri	6	69	75
Invertebrate	giant Pacific octopus	Octopus dofleini	0	1	0
Invertebrate	giant white doris	Archidoris odhneri	0	3	3
Invertebrate	glassy sea squirt	Ascidia paratropa	0	239	239
Invertebrate	glove sponge	Neoesperiopsis digitata	59	81	140
Invertebrate	golfball crab	Rhinolithodes wosnessenski	6	53	59
Invertebrate	graceful crab	Cancer gracilis	3	0	3
Invertebrate	granular claw crab	Oedignathus inermis	0	4	4
Invertebrate	green false-jingle	Pododesmus macroschisma	4244	351	4595
Invertebrate	green sea urchin	Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis	171	3355	3526
Invertebrate	hairy cancer crab	Cancer oregonensis	35	935	970
Invertebrate	hairy hermit crab	Pagurus hirsutiusculus	0	1	1
Invertebrate	hairy lithodid	Hapalogaster mertensii	0	2	2
Invertebrate	heart crab	Phyllolithodes papillosus	5	19	24

Species Group	Species Local Common	Species Scientific	Sum Number of Dead	Sum Number of Alive	Total
Invertebrate	helmet crab	Telmessus cheiragonus	9	18	27
Invertebrate	hermit crab sponge	Suberities suberea	0	2	2
Invertebrate	hermit crab unid.	Paguridae sp.	0	5	5
Invertebrate	horse clam	Tresus sp.	901	134	1035
Invertebrate	horsehair crab	Erimacrus isenbeckii	0	2	2
Invertebrate	horseshoe ascadian	Chelyosoma productum	0	3606	3606
Invertebrate	hudson's doris	Acanthodoris hudsoni	0	6	6
Invertebrate	humpback shrimp	Pandalus hypsinotus	6	63	69
Invertebrate	kelp isopods	isopoda	0	7	7
Invertebrate	Kennerley venus	Humilaria kennerleyi	305	7	312
Invertebrate	lampshell	Terebratalia transversa	404	925	1329
Invertebrate	leafy hornmouth	Ceratostoma foliatum	200	630	830
Invertebrate	leopard doris	Diaulula sandiegensis	10	15	25
Invertebrate	lined chiton	Tonicella lineata	0	9	9
Invertebrate	lined ribbon worm	Tubulanus sexlineatus	0	2	2
Invertebrate	long ray star	Stylasterias forreri	0	1	1
Invertebrate	longarm brittle star	Amphiodia urtica	0	9	9
Invertebrate	longhorn decorator crab	Chorilia longipes	148	2776	2924
Invertebrate	lyre crab	Hyas lyratus	0	1	1
Invertebrate	lyre whelk	Neptunea lyrata	0	25	25
Invertebrate	manila clam	Venerupis philippinarum	6	0	6
Invertebrate	mask limpet	Tectura persona	0	3	3
Invertebrate	metridium anemone	Metridium giganteum	0	52	52
Invertebrate	moon snail	Euspira lewisii	4	3	7
Invertebrate	morning sunstar	Solaster dawsoni	2	44	46
Invertebrate	mossy chiton	Mopalia muscosa	1	15	16
Invertebrate	mottled star	Evasterias troschellii	0	66	66
Invertebrate	mudstar	Ctenodiscus crispatus	0	5	5
Invertebrate	northern abalone	Haliotis kamtschatkana	2	0	2
Invertebrate	northern kelp crab	Pugettia producta	25	289	314
Invertebrate	Nuttall's cockle	Clinocardium nuttalli	363	3	366
Invertebrate	ochre star	Pisaster ochraceus	1	119	120
Invertebrate	orange sea cucumber	Cucumaria miniata	0	26	26
Invertebrate	orange sunstar	Solaster paxillatus	0	1	1
Invertebrate	Oregon triton	Fusitriton oregonensis	546	1251	1797
Invertebrate	Pacific blue mussel	Mytilus edulis	204	1427	1631
Invertebrate	Pacific gaper	Tresus nuttallii	20	3	23
Invertebrate	Pacific littleneck clam	Protothaca staminea	150	0	150
Invertebrate	Pacific oyster	Crassostrea gigas	3	5	8

Species Group	Species Local Common	Species Scientific	Sum Number of Dead	Sum Number of Alive	Total
Invertebrate	Pacific razor clam	Siliqua patula	60	1	61
Invertebrate	painted anemone	Urticina felina	0	75	75
Invertebrate	painted star	Orthasterias koehleri	19	87	106
Invertebrate	pointed macoma	Macoma inquinata	2	0	2
Invertebrate	porcelain crab	Petrolisthes sp.	11	529	540
Invertebrate	prawn	Pandalus platyceros	0	14	14
Invertebrate	primitive ribbon worm	Tubulanus polymorphus	3	527	530
Invertebrate	Puget Sound king crab	Lopholithodes mandtii	48	58	106
Invertebrate	purple ring topsnail	Calliostoma annulatum	7	239	246
Invertebrate	purple shore crab	Hemigrapsus nudus	0	1	1
Invertebrate	red fur crab	Acantholithodes hispidus	3	11	14
Invertebrate	red octopus	Octopus rubescens	0	6	6
Invertebrate	red rock crab	Cancer productus	936	763	1699
Invertebrate	red sea urchin	Strongylocentrotus franciscanus	131	359	490
Invertebrate	red sponge nudibranch	Rostanga pulchra	0	2	2
Invertebrate	ridged blood star	Henricia aspera	4	153	157
Invertebrate	rock scallop	Crassadoma gigantea	147	37	184
Invertebrate	rose star	Crossaster papposus	0	55	55
Invertebrate	scale worm	Halosydna brevisetosa	0	31	31
Invertebrate	scaly lithodid	Placetron wosnessenskii	12	12	24
Invertebrate	sea lemon	Anisodoris nobilis	0	14	14
Invertebrate	sharp-nosed crab	Scyra acutifrons	0	821	821
Invertebrate	shiny orange sea squirt	Cnemidocarpa finmarkiensis	0	39	39
Invertebrate	short plumose anemones	Metridium senile	0	1	1
Invertebrate	slender cancer crab	Cancer gracilis	9	66	75
Invertebrate	slender decorator crab	Oregonia gracilis	0	1517	1517
Invertebrate	slender kelp crab	Pugettia gracilis	2	2009	2011
Invertebrate	smooth pink scallop	Chlamys rubida	14,023	5,493	19,516
Invertebrate	softshell clam	Mya arenaria	10	2	12
Invertebrate	spiny mudstar	Luidia foliolata	0	2	2
Invertebrate	spiny pink shrimp	Pandalus eous	0	4	4
Invertebrate	spiny pink star	Pisaster brevispinus	0	5	5
Invertebrate	spiny sea squirt	Halocynthia hilgendorfi igaboja	0	285	285
Invertebrate	spiny top snail	Cidarina cidaris	9	10	19
Invertebrate	spot shrimp	Pandalus platyceros	1	67	68
Invertebrate	squat lobster	Munida quadrispina	0	1	1
Invertebrate	stalked hairy sea squirt	Boltenia villosa	150	17,738	17,888

Species Group	Species Local Common	Species Scientific	Sum Number of Dead	Sum Number of Alive	Total
Invertebrate	striped dogwinkle	Nucella emarginata	0	18	18
Invertebrate	striped sun star	Solaster stimpsoni	2	51	53
Invertebrate	sunflower star	Pycnopodia helianthoides	9	325	334
Invertebrate	tabled whelk	Neptunea tabulata	2	3	5
Invertebrate	tanner crab	Chionoecetes bairdi	2	5	7
Invertebrate	tennis ball sponge	Craniella villosa	0	46	46
Invertebrate	thick-claw porcelain crab	Pachycheles rudis	0	49	49
Invertebrate	transparent sea squirt	Corella willmeriana	0	189	189
Invertebrate	tube worm	Phoronid	0	355	355
Invertebrate	umbrella crab	Cryptolithodes sitchensis	0	10	10
Invertebrate	vermillion sea star	Mediaster aequalis	0	13	13
Invertebrate	weathervane scallop	Patinopecten caurinus	0	2	2
Invertebrate	white dendronotid	Dendronotus albus	0	1	1
Invertebrate	white sea cucumber	Eupentacta quinquesemita	4	202	206
Invertebrate	widehand hermit	Elassochirus tenuimanus	0	6	6
Invertebrate	yellow encrusting sponge	Myxilla lacunosa	1	571	572
Invertebrate	yellow margin dorid	Cadlina luteomarginata	0	2	2
Invertebrate	yellow sponge	Spongia barbara	0	8	8
<b>Invertebrates Total (142 species)</b>			<b>58,879</b>	<b>79,565</b>	<b>138,444</b>
Coral	hydroid coral	Abietinaria greenei	-	-	-
Coral	orange cup coral	Tubastraea coccinea	-	-	-
<b>Total Entangled</b>			<b>59,626</b>	<b>79,739</b>	<b>139,365</b>

Table 4.0 Outreach events for the reporting period July, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Date	Outreach Events Description	Location	Number attending
7/08/10	Puget Sound Anglers, Lake Washington Chapter	Mercer Island	16 recreational fishers
7/13/10	Puget Sound Anglers, Kitsap Peninsula Chapter	Port Townsend	36 recreational fishers
8/12/10	Puget Sound Anglers, North Sound Chapter	Edmonds	63 recreational fishers
8/26/10	San Juan County Action Agenda Oversight Committee	Friday Harbor	18 policy-makers and citizens
9/08/10	Puget Sound Anglers, North Kitsap Chapter	Hansville	73 recreational fishers
9/14/10	Coastal Conservation Association, Seatac Chapter	Kent	43 citizens active in coastal conservation
9/15/10	Puget Sound Anglers, Bellingham Chapter	Bellingham	30 recreational fishers
9/21/10	Puget Sound Anglers, Anacortes Chapter	Anacortes	60 recreational fishers
9/21-23/10	Oceans 2010 Conference	Seattle	1,500+ attendees
10/06/10	Puget Sound Harbor Safety Commission	Seattle	63 industry representatives
10/11/10	Beach Watchers Volunteer Training	Coupeville	20 citizen volunteers
10/21/10	Puget Sound Anglers, Sequim Chapter	Sequim	61 recreational fishers
10/21/10	Puget Sound Anglers	Everett	60 recreational fishers
10/05/10	Northwest Straits Initiative Conference	Orcas Island	100 citizens, agency representatives, and elected officials
11/13/10	Restore America's Estuaries Conference	Galveston, TX	100 restoration advocates and professionals

Table 5.0 Removal observations for the reporting period July, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Date	Observer (name and affiliation)	Boat
7/31/10	Jackie DeHaven, REEF	Surveyor II
9/03/10	Kevin Adams, NOAA	Twila Dawn

Table 6.0 Media coverage for the reporting period July, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Date	Publication	Title/Link
9/2010	Pacific Fishing Magazine	Cleaning Up Puget Sound
9/01/10	Sea Technology	Application of Sidescan Sonar for the Detection of Derelict Gear
9/15/10	The Ripple Effect: Pacific NW CCA regional newsletter	New Technology Helps Uncover Derelict Nets
11/10	Watertalks, EPA Newsletter	EPA Divers Help in Recovery of Abandoned Gear in Puget Sound
11/10	Nor'westing Magazine	Ghosts of the Sea



Photos from fishing net removal operations during reporting period 7/1/10 – 12/31/10



Ratfish caught alive and freed from a derelict net, Lopez Island, August 5, 2010. Photo by Pete Anderson.



Dogfish killed in derelict net removed, Lopez Island, August 5, 2010. Photo by Pete Anderson.



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

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Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative

## 238 ACRES OF OLD FISHING NETS REMOVED FROM PUGET SOUND

MOUNT VERNON, WA – The Northwest Straits Initiative announced today that it has completed a \$4.6 million project to remove thousands of derelict gill nets from the marine waters of Puget Sound. Since July, 2009, when the current project started, 2,493 nets were removed. A total of 3,860 nets have been removed since 2002, when the Northwest Straits Initiative first began its derelict fishing gear removal program.

"This funding allowed us to employ 30 people over the last 18 months. With those additional workers, we were able to more than double the work that we did in the seven years previously. Our crews removed 238 acres of nets that won't be harming wildlife anymore. The benefits are immediate to the economy and the Sound. It was a great way to end 2010," said Ginny Broadhurst, director of the Northwest Straits Initiative.

Divers working for the Initiative ramped up net removal from Puget Sound since last July after receiving federal stimulus funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The crews, working full-time from four removal boats, removed nearly 2,500 nets (average size is 7,000 square feet) during the 18-month project. Derelict nets capture and kill large numbers of marine mammals, birds, fish and invertebrates such as Dungeness crab.

Joe Gaydos, regional director and chief scientist for the SeaDoc Society added, "Removing 2,500 derelict nets was not just a feel-good publicity stunt. This project provided real jobs and stopped the silent killing of thousands of animals, representing 185 different species, many of which we're trying to recover. These include important species like abalone, rockfish, salmon and declining marine birds like grebes, loons and scoters. We need more projects like this."

This project was one of 50 selected by NOAA in 2009. It employed 30 people, including divers, boat crews, biologists and information technology professionals and provided an important economic boost throughout Puget Sound. "Healthy coastal habitats and healthy coastal economics go hand in hand" said Eric Schwaab, Assistant Administrator of NOAA Fisheries. "Coastal areas generate 28 million jobs in the United States, and commercial and recreational fishing in these areas annually contribute \$185 billion to the nation's economy. Providing jobs while restoring coasts is a win-win situation."

"It pleases me to see this effort that has been struggling for so many years to find funding finally come to fruition" said Buck Meloy, a commercial fisherman from Whatcom County.



The Northwest Straits Initiative goal is to remove the 1,200- 1,500 remaining gillnets in Puget Sound that are in waters down to 100' deep by 2012 and to begin removing deeper water nets and derelict crab pots if new funding is found.

The Northwest Straits Initiative is nationally recognized as an innovative approach to bring sound science and an ecosystem perspective together with citizen energy and entrepreneurship. It began its derelict fishing net and crab pot removal program in 2002. Learn more at [www.nwstraits.org](http://www.nwstraits.org) and [www.derelictgear.org](http://www.derelictgear.org)

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Project images available upon request.