



KELP MONITORING



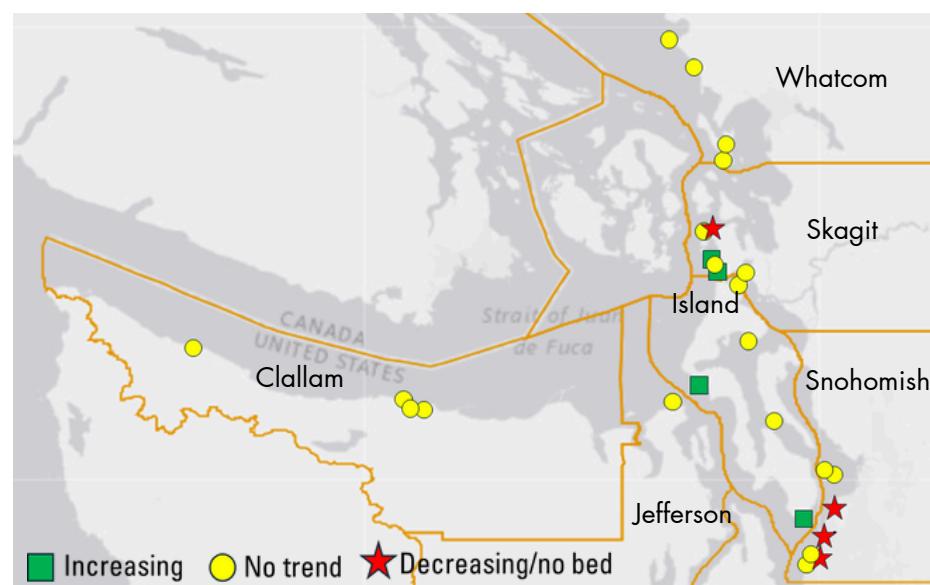
**Northwest
Straits
COMMISSION**



WHAT IS THE MRC FLOATING KELP MONITORING PROJECT?

The Marine Resources Committees' (MRCs) Floating Kelp Monitoring Project is a community science-based project that measures "floating" kelp (i.e., bull kelp and giant kelp that grow to the surface of the water) bed area 1-4 times during summer months via kayaks at select sites each year.

Launched in 2015, this project is coordinated by the Northwest Straits Commission and is led by the Clallam, Jefferson, Island, Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom MRCs. The goal of this project is to better understand local kelp forests.



Long-term trends (through 2025) for floating kelp at MRC monitored sites

PURPOSE

MONITORING TRENDS
IN FLOATING KELP
FORESTS IN THE
NORTHWEST STRAITS
REGION

This project monitors floating kelp beds at select sites across the Northwest Straits Region to better understand kelp bed trends and to help MRCs inform their governments and communities about local kelp forests.

Collected data is also provided to partners to use in various research projects and resource tools, including WA Department of Natural Resources' [Floating Kelp Indicator](#) and [Floating Kelp Linear Extent Data Viewer](#).

PROJECT SITE: nwstraits.org/our-work/kelp-recovery

PROJECT CONTACT: whitty@nwstraits.org

In 2025,
55
volunteers

Paddled
316+
miles

Monitored
26
sites

Documented
648+ acres
of floating kelp

WHAT WERE THE 2025 RESULTS?

Site	Acres (% change*)	Site	Acres (% change*)
Clallam Bay	23.2 (+82)	Mukilteo	No bed
Observatory Pt.	1.1 (-16)	Hat Is-S	69.6 (+15)
Freshwater Bay	221.4 (+58)	Hat Is-W	48.8 (+71)
North Beach-E	25.1 (+30)	Lone Tree Pt	3.7 (-13)
Possession Pt	106.6 (+41)	Coffin Rocks	1.9 (+6)
Ebey's Landing	31.4 (-3)	Biz Pt-S	1.8 (-1)
Lowell Pt	23.4 (-13)	Biz Pt-N	1.0 (-6)
Polnell Pt	39.6 (+11)	Shannon Pt-W	8.0 (+30)
Hoypus Pt	2.9 (-15)	Shannon Pt-E	No bed
Edm-Dive Pk	0.2 (+21)	Lummi-SW	3.3 (+11)
Edm-NE	No bed	Aiston	0.3 (-11)
Edm-NW	11.6 (-5)	Gulf Rd-Cherry Pt	20.0 (-18)
Meadowdale	No bed	Pt Whitehorn	4.0 (-12)

*from previously monitored year

LEARN MORE!

Visit SoundIQ bit.ly/SOUNDIQ to view and download MRC kelp monitoring data.



"The MRCs' floating **kelp surveys** are among the region's longest running & **track trends** in kelp bed area. The surveys give community members **hands-on opportunities** to interact with our state marine forest."

Emily Buckner,
Jefferson MRC kelp kayaking lead

