

NWSC Benchmarks

We plan our projects to address these five broad benchmarks established by the Northwest Straits Commission.

Marine Habitats

Protect and restore marine, coastal and nearshore habitats, prevent loss and achieve a net gain of healthy marine habitat areas by

- Designing and initiating projects that are driven by sound science, local priorities, community-based decisions and the ability to measure results
- Designing and implementing local and regional projects that restore natural resources
- Surveying and mapping marine resources and physical characteristics of marine habitats; and
- Making policy and scientifically-based recommendations about appropriate management tools to protect marine habitats, including designation of marine protected areas.

Marine Life

Protect and restore marine populations to healthy, sustainable levels by:

- Identifying and carrying out actions to protect and restore species of concern, including marine mammals, birds, fish, shellfish and other invertebrates
- Designing and implementing projects to restore native marine plant and animal populations and preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species.
- Rebuilding populations of fish species, particularly bottomfish, shellfish and forage fish, and
- Making policy and scientifically-based recommendations about appropriate management tools for species recovery, including designation of marine protected areas.

Marine Water Quality

Protect marine water quality of the Northwest Straits region and restore the health of marine waters by:

- Working to reduce the input of contaminants, including toxic substances, to the Northwest Straits marine waters
- Promoting management actions that would restore areas experiencing degraded water quality and sediment contamination, and
- Designing and supporting projects that will restore and maintain marine waters clean enough for safe marine harvest and consumption.

Sound Science

Collect high quality data and promote its use and dissemination by

- Developing protocols for the collection, analysis and use of scientific data that supports Northwest Straits goals
- Identifying gaps in data that limit protection and restoration efforts and work to fill those gaps
- Promoting the development of comprehensive, accessible marine resource databases

- Promoting the consistent collection and coordination of data to assist the efforts of the Northwest Straits and its partners in protecting habitats and species of concern, and
- Translating and disseminating scientific information about local marine resources to management agencies and the public.

Education and Outreach

Promote stewardship and understanding of Northwest Straits marine resources through education and outreach by

- Informing the public about threats to living resources and presenting them with practical measures they can take to prevent further harm
- Coordinating outreach and education programs with other organizations and evaluating their effectiveness
- Engaging the public in active stewardship opportunities through community workshops, restoration projects and educational programming, and
- Communicating the status of Northwest Straits habitats and resources to regional policy makers and resource managers.