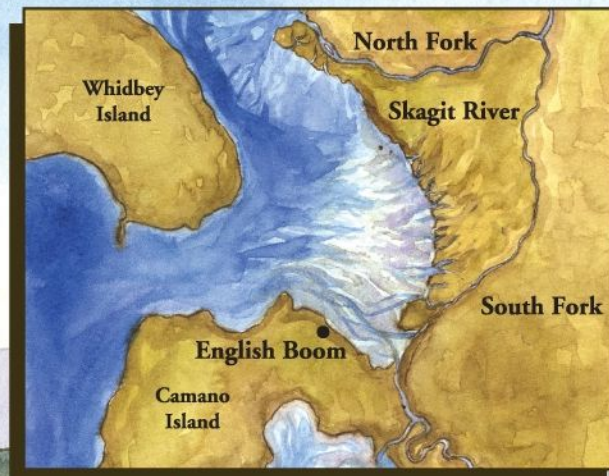


You Are Looking at a Salmon Nursery

'Big fish eat little fish.' – Ancient Proverb

Purple
Martin

Nesting
Box



First Stop on a Miraculous Journey

You are looking at Skagit Bay and the vast Skagit River Delta, where days-old salmon adjust from fresh to salt water. The tidal channels of the Skagit's south fork carry thousands of young salmon down current to this park's sandy shore and lagoon habitat. Others float here on tidal currents from the Stillaguamish River, just to the south via a short channel under the island's highway bridge. From here they will swim thousands of miles to sea and grow to adulthood before returning to our nearby rivers to breed again.

Juvenile Salmon

Channels and Estuaries Shelter Salmon

English Boom offers the young fish more than 500 acres of natural salt marsh, mudflat and beach berm. Hillside drainage, overland runoff and shoreline ground water seep into the marsh and estuary here, diluting the more saline waters of the bay to give young salmon a chance to adjust their metabolism. The small fish find refuge in tidal channels from predators that lurk in the deeper waters. Here they feed, rest, hide and grow before venturing into deeper waters of Puget Sound. Surf smelt – a favorite food of salmon – spawn on our naturally sandy beach.

Pickleweed



Yarrow

Big Logs Serve Nature's Purpose

Large drift logs provide important cover and add to the habitat complexity within the marsh. They serve as a growing medium for herbs and shrubs, a place for insects and invertebrates to land or attach and then fall into the water to become food for fish. They also help shade the marsh surface from the sun's direct rays, reducing its heat and creating micro-habitats in the deeper pools or channels where tidal action scours around the wood-marsh contact points. Naturally-functioning habitats such as English Boom are crucial to the life cycle of salmon and other fish and wildlife. Centuries of human development and shoreline alterations have taken a toll on such habitat in many other areas of Island County and Puget Sound.

Seashore Bluegrass

Lamb's Quarters



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