

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

# October 1, 2024

WHIDBEY/HYBRID MEETING

**PRESENT:** Jill Lipoti, Chair, Kelly Webb, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Barbara Bennett, Kes Tautvydas, Ken Collins, Andi Kopit, Greg Easton, Kirk Larsen, Patrick Havel, Jeff Wheeler, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff

**ABSENT:** Note if notified or un-notified – Melanie Bacon, un-notified, Jennifer Schmitz, notified

**VISITORS:** James Watson, WICD, Sasha Horst, NWSC, Clea Barenburg, Salmon Recovery, Lisa Kaufman, NWSF, Jason Morgan, NWSF, Caitlyn Blair, NWSC, Don Hunger, NWSF, Chris Kelley, IC Hydrogeology, Jeff Whitty, NWSC

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jill called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** September 3, 2024, minutes approved

### TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water.

### NW STRAITS FOUNDATION UPDATE: Lisa Kaufman, Jason Morgan, Don Hunger

- The NWSF has restored one mile of shoreline which is mostly focused on shoreline armoring removal.
- Shore Friendly is working to develop content for workshops to educate arborists and landscape planners.
- The Derelict Gear program has removed 5,824 fishing nets and over 8,000 crab pots.
- In Island County alone they have removed 433 fishing nets and 350 crab pots.
- See the presentation slides at the end of the minutes for further details.

### MARITIME WASHINGTON NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA: Jill Lipoti

- The MRC voted to become a member of the MWNHA. The first-year membership fee is waived. In return we will need to include their brochures at our booth displays at events.

### FORAGE FISH UPDATES:

- The team has found a new location to add to our forage fish program. This will be replacing the site at Sunlight Shores that we are no longer surveying. The new site will be at Cavalero Beach on Camano.

Meeting Adjourned 5:59 pm

## Core Programs



Nearshore Restoration



Derelict Gear Removal



Shore Friendly  
Landowner Outreach



Citizen Science  
Monitoring



Caroline Gibson  
NWSI Scholars



# 2022 Milestone: 1 Mile Restored

## Nearshore Restoration





# Stewardship

Nearshore  
Restoration





# Shore Friendly





# CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SHORELINE?

Bulkheads are not your only solution.

## SHORE FRIENDLY CAN HELP YOU PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY THROUGH NATURAL METHODS.

**Shore Friendly Living workshops** with coastal professionals discuss strategies to protect your shoreline home and cover topics such as coastal processes and drivers of erosion, vegetation and drainage management, impacts of bulkheads and more.

**Beach walks** provide educational opportunities for you and your neighbors to work towards building community through shoreline stewardship.

**Permitting** is complex, time consuming, and expensive.

The Shore Friendly program can coordinate and lead the process for local, state, and federal permits for restoration and armor removal projects.

New rules at all levels of permitting make it easier and less expensive to permit armor removal and shoreline restoration projects than bulkhead and hard armor installation and repairs.

**Removing bulkheads** increases spawning habitat for forage fish which feed salmon, resident Orca, and marine birds.

- Shore Friendly offers cost-share options and the potential for project management assistance and grant funding for larger projects.
- Working together with neighbors to restore larger areas of the shoreline increases the benefits of removal for habitats and your property.

**Free site visits** with coastal professionals address vegetation, flooding, drainage, and erosion. Qualified landowners can also access cost-share assistance for design, permitting, and implementation of solutions following the site visit.

**Engineering design and planning assistance** is available for:

- Armor removal/replacement with natural solutions.
- Developing native planting plans specific to your property and needs.
- Identifying drainage issues that can potentially increase erosion rates and develop strategies to mitigate the problem.
- Develop a plan to increase setbacks between your structures and the shoreline or bluff crest to decrease risk of flooding or landslide.

**Effective vegetation management** provides erosion protection, slope stabilization, and stormwater management. Shore Friendly can assist landowners with:

- Native planting plans
- Purchase of plants and planting materials.
- Assistance with installation of plants.
- Cost-share options for removal of invasives.



CONTACT YOUR NORTHWEST STRAITS  
SHORE FRIENDLY PROGRAM AT:  
KAUFMAN@NWSTRAITSFOUNDATION.ORG




partners in marine conservation



Funded wholly or in part by the Washington Department of  
Fish & Wildlife Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program





# Shore Friendly Living

Episode #1:  
"Coastal Beaches  
& Bluffs"

0:42 / 9:52



## Episode #3

# "Restoring the Connection between Land and Water"

1:12 / 9:55

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## Episode #2

# "Managing Shoreline Erosion: Bulkheads or Natural Solutions"



# Shore Friendly Living

Episode 4:  
"Native Plants:  
Holding the Shoreline Together"

1:04 / 7:11 • Intro >

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# RESTORATION MONITORING

**Forage Fish:** what beaches are providing habitat for surf smelt and Pacific sand lance to lay and hatch their eggs?



**FORAGE FISH EGGS**

**Beach Seine:** do migrating juvenile salmon and other nearshore fish species prefer natural shorelines over modified shorelines?



**BEACH SEINE**



**BEACH PROFILE**

**Beach profile:** do restored beaches maintain similar physical structures to natural beaches over armored beaches? The slope of a beach can effect algae and invertebrates presence, and sediment composition needed for successful forage fish spawning.

The Northwest Straits Foundation is working with regional partners on a long-term study of the impacts shoreline armoring has on the Puget Sound ecosystem, and how restoration actions may return our shorelines to their natural functioning state. We are surveying 28 restoration sites to learn:



**LOGS**

**Logs:** do restored beaches provide more woody debris than armored beaches, bringing natural stability to shorelines while providing shelter for invertebrates and foraging habitat for shorebirds?

**INSECTS**



**Insects:** how are restoration actions effecting the availability of insects falling onto the water's surface from riparian vegetation, an important component of diet for migrating juvenile salmon?

**Citizen Science:** We are working with community volunteers to collect scientific data and serve as stewards for our restoration sites. Our volunteers have provided over 9,000 hours of service since 2014!

**WRACK**



**Wrack:** is beach wrack more abundant on restored and natural shorelines providing food and shelter for invertebrates and foraging habitat for shorebirds?



# Derelict Fishing Gear

- Lost, abandoned or discarded fishing gear
- Gillnets and crab pots
  - Shrimp pots, purse seine, trawl, aquaculture
- Ghost fishing
- Habitat degradation



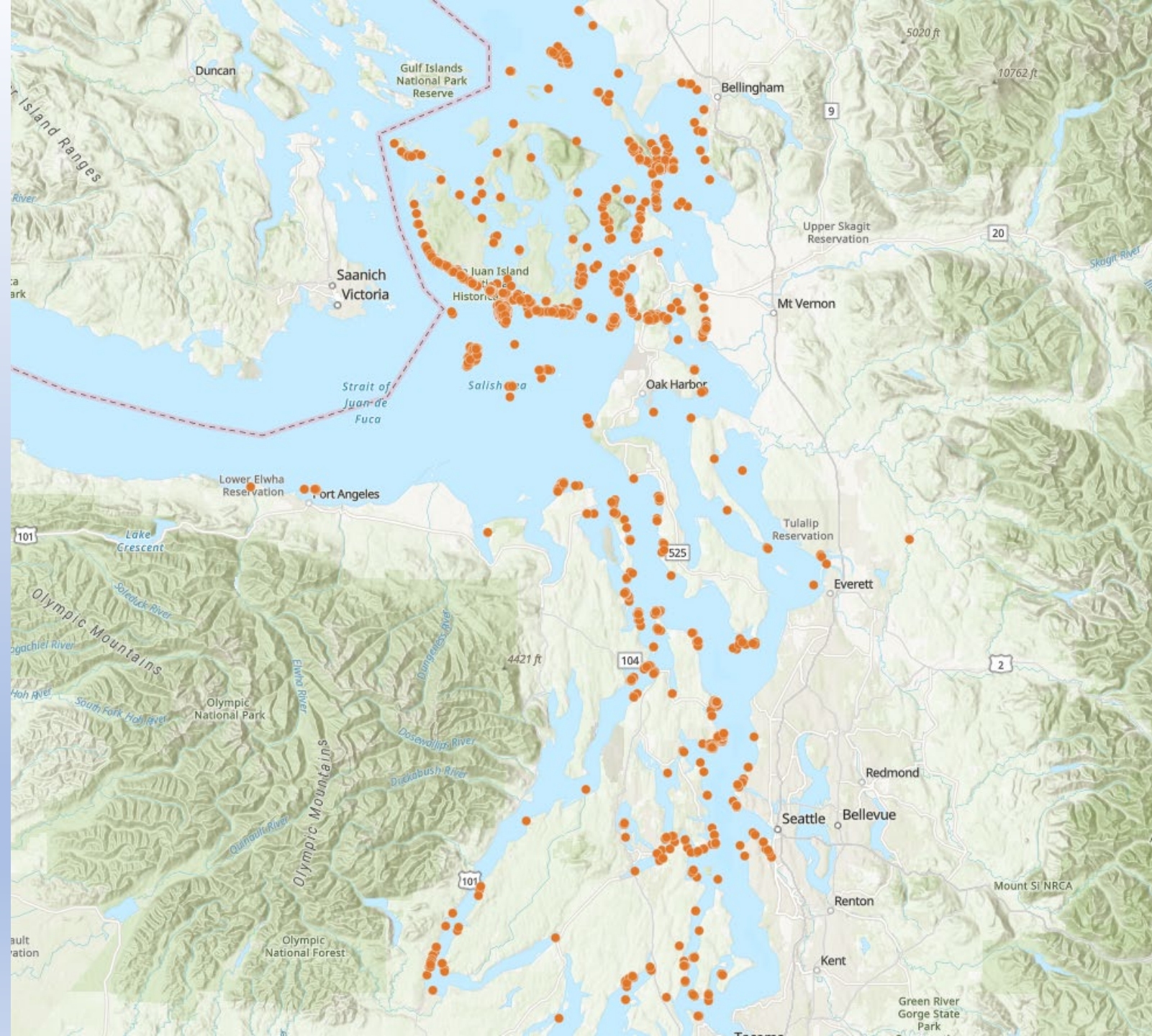


# 5,824 Nets Removed

## Entanglements

- Over 870 acres restored
- More than 490,000 marine animals entangled
- Saving over 11 million lives each year
- Reporting, Response and Retrieval Program

**REPORT LOST NETS:**  
**[derelictgear.org](http://derelictgear.org) or 360-733-1725**



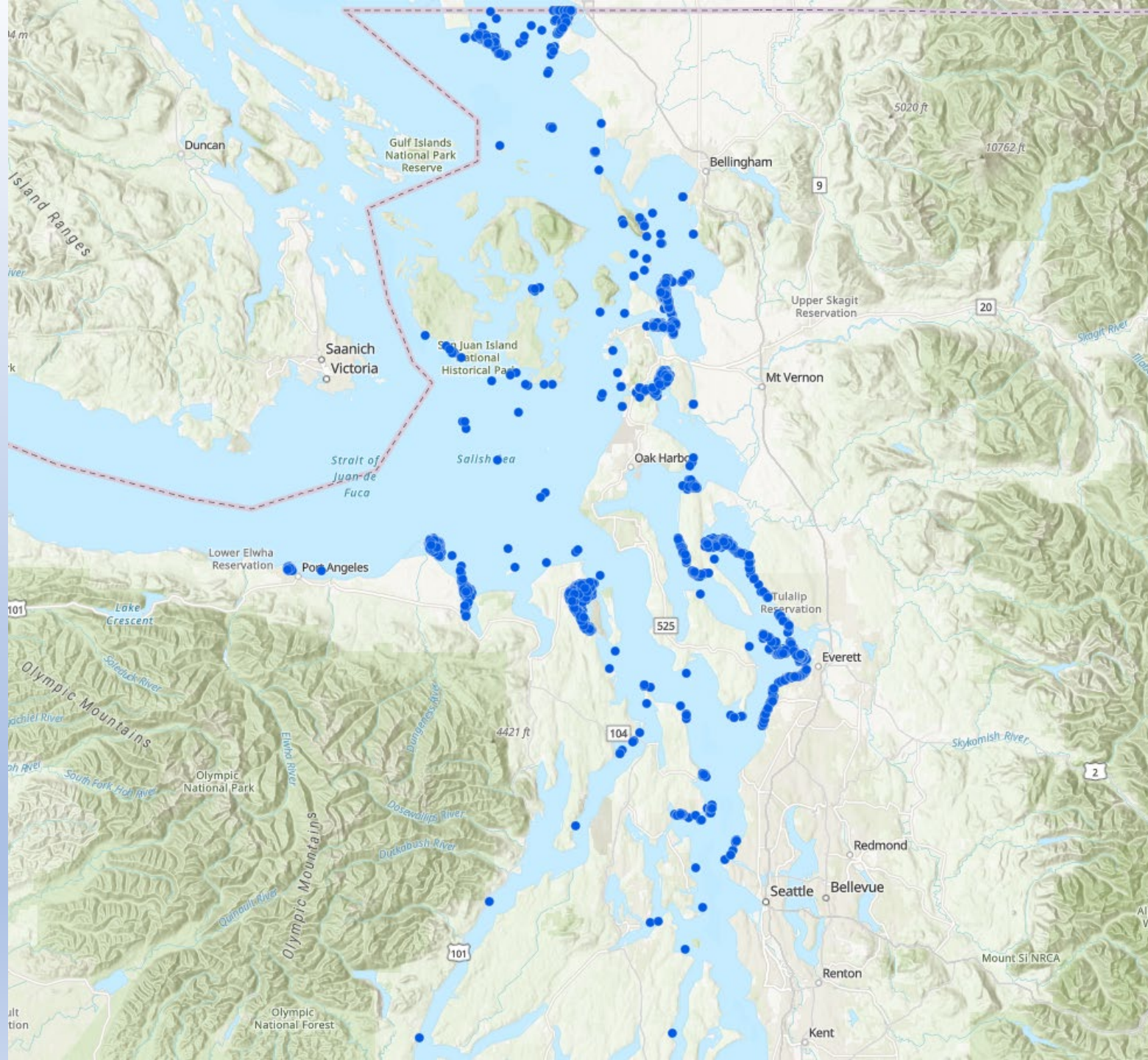


# Derelict Crab Pots

- Over 8,000 derelict pots removed
- Estimated 10,782 pots lost annually
  - 86% recreational; 14% commercial
- Pots can fish up to 2.2 years
- 142,935 harvestable crabs lost per year
- 271,576 lbs. of D. crab lost
- Ex-vessel value \$1,279,124











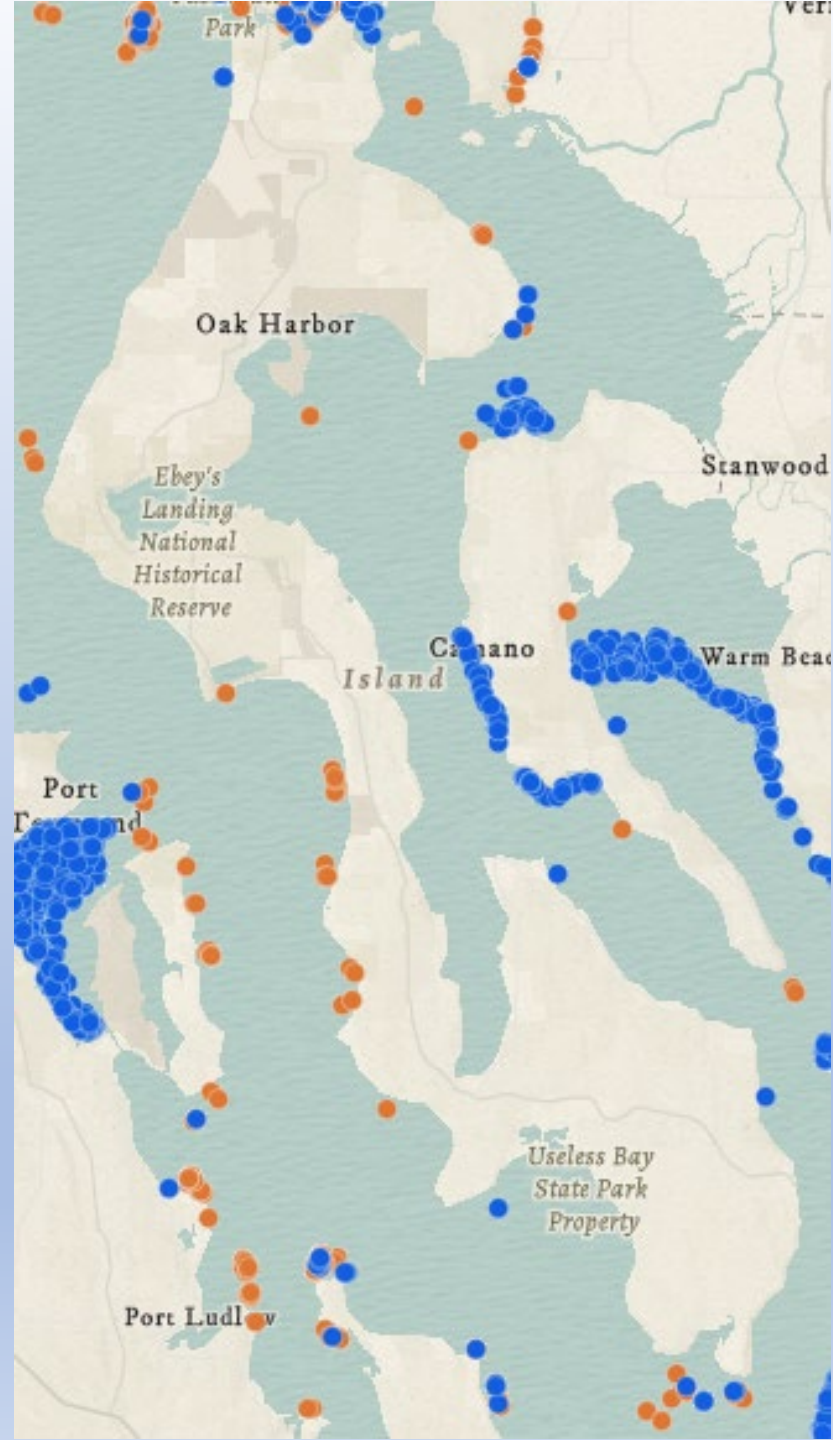






# Derelict Gear in Island County

- 433 nets removed
- 350 crab pots removed
- 39 acres restored





# Mission



## NWSF Mission

To protect and restore the health of the marine ecosystem by promoting and implementing science-based restoration and stewardship, enhancing collaboration and attracting resources for the work of the Northwest Straits Initiative.





## Collaboration

# MRC Project Support 2024-2025

The Northwest Straits Foundation accepts project support funding requests from Marine Resource Committees year-round. Our ability to support your request depends on finding corporate, foundation and donor support for it.

We estimate it will take 6 to 12 *months* to secure funding for most projects. Some have taken 2 to 3 *years* to find funders.



# Requesting Project Support



## Request Details

Project Title:

Project Location and Dates:

Lead Entity: Contact Info

Project Description: Goal; Budget; Partners

Funding Needs Amount and Date:

In-kind Type Needed (such as intern) Amount and Date:

Submitted by: MRC Contact and Date





## NWSF Contacts

### Who to Contact at NWSF

To discuss general project ideas: Don Hunger,  
[don@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:don@nwstraitsfoundation.org), 360-739-9909

To discuss nearshore project ideas: Lisa  
Kaufman, [kaufman@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:kaufman@nwstraitsfoundation.org),  
360-393-6948

To discuss derelict gear or monitoring project  
ideas: Jason Morgan,  
[morgan@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:morgan@nwstraitsfoundation.org),  
360-268-3800