



Marine Resources Committee

2025 Annual Report

RESTORE, CONSERVE, EDUCATE



Surface Water
Management



Snohomish County
Marine Resources
Committee

About the MRC

Members



Julie Schlenger
MRC Chair



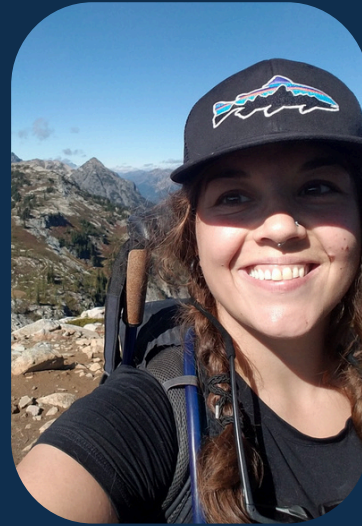
Sara Maxwell
Co-Vice Chair



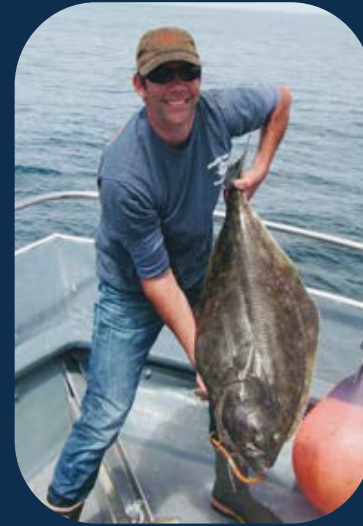
Brie Townsend
Co-Vice Chair



Franchesca Perez
Stillaguamish Tribe
Representative



Natasha Coumou
Tulalip Tribes
Representative



Allan Hicks



Andrew Gobin



Dawn Presler



Phil Salditt



Richard Strickland



Tim Ellis



David Bain,
Ex-Officio

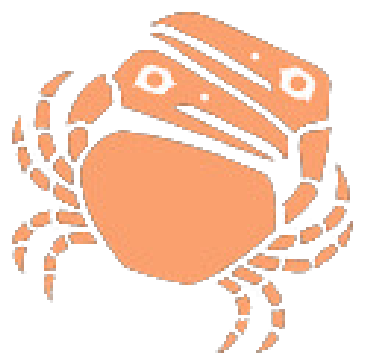
Staff



Elisa Dawson
SWM Senior
Planner



Joycelyn Blue
SWM
Planner



Focus Areas



**Forage Fish
Monitoring**



**Marine Vegetation
Monitoring**



Marine Water Quality



**Derelict Vessel
Removal**

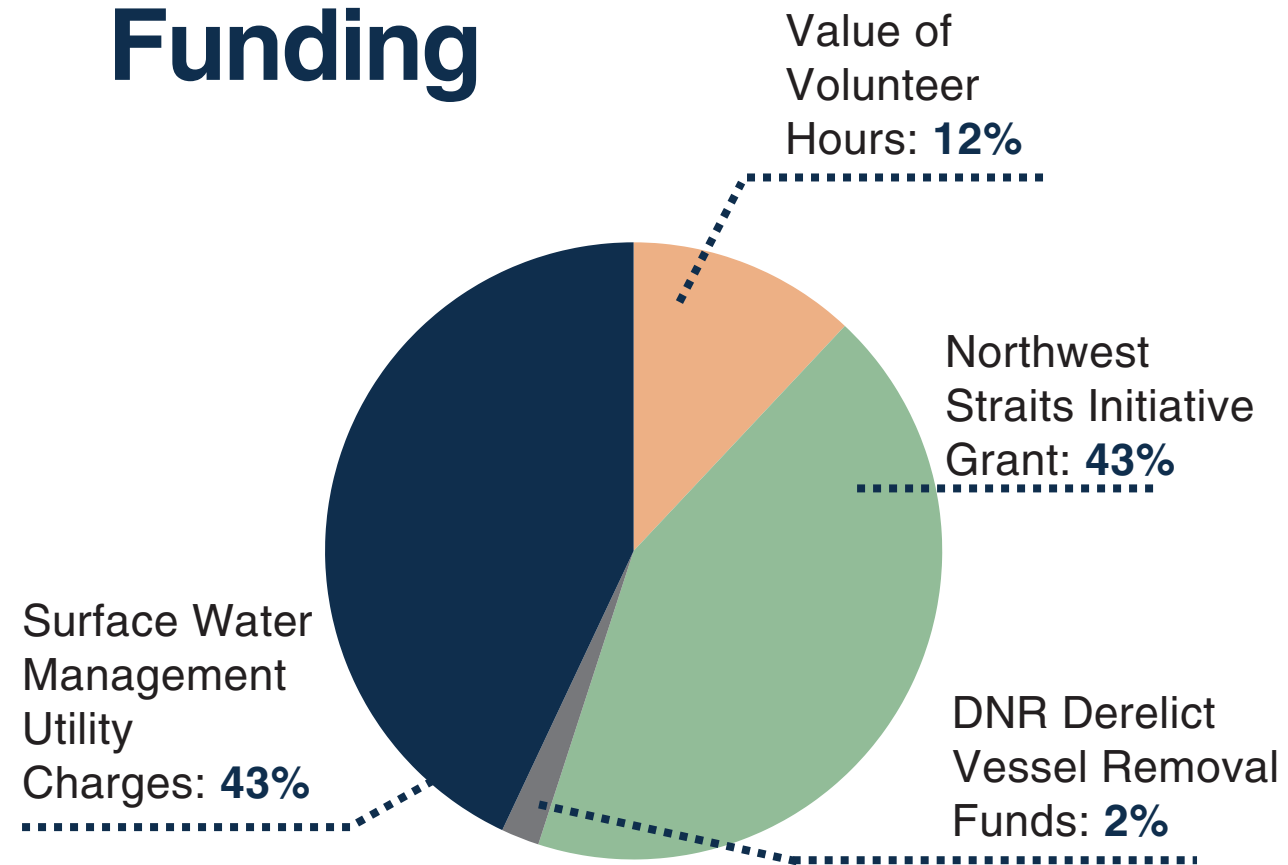


**Outreach and
Education**

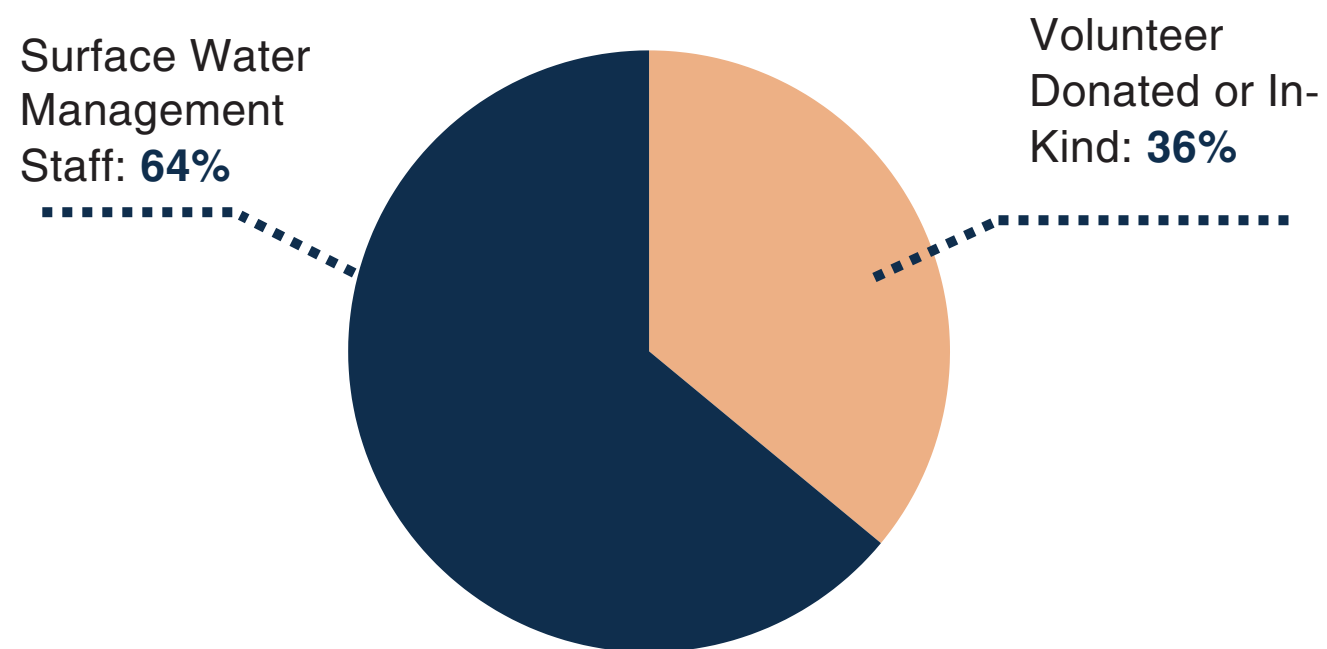


Finance

Funding



Support



\$41.70

Washington State's estimated value of a volunteer hour

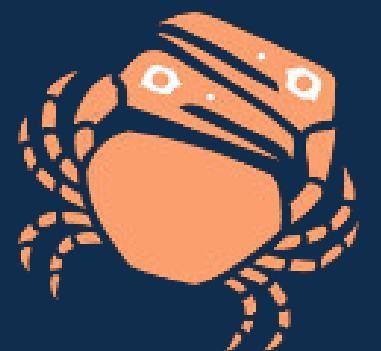


1,250

Volunteer hours donated in 2024.

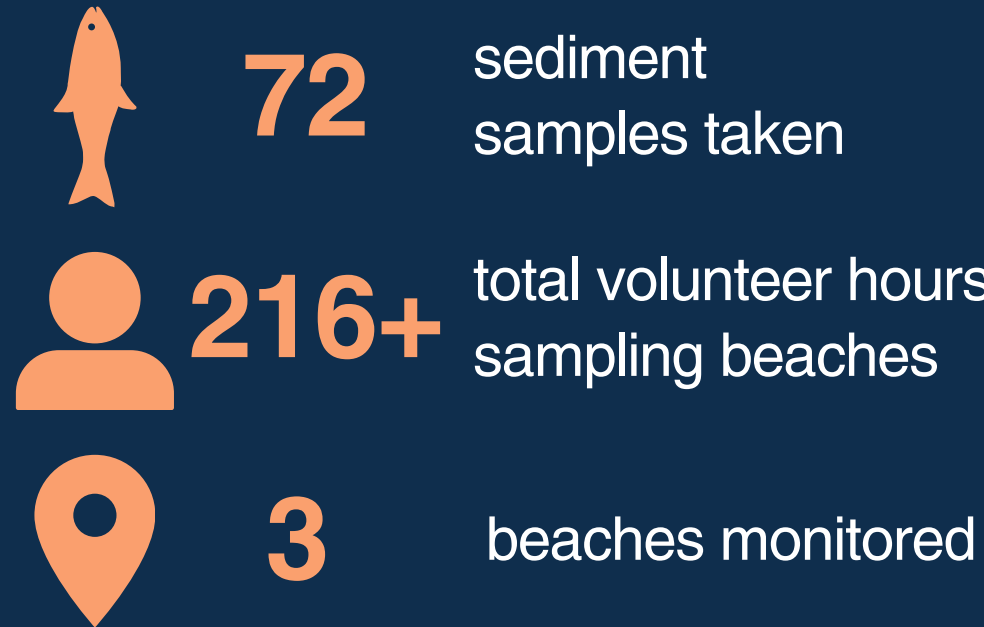
\$52,125

Total value to Snohomish County



Monitoring

Forage Fish

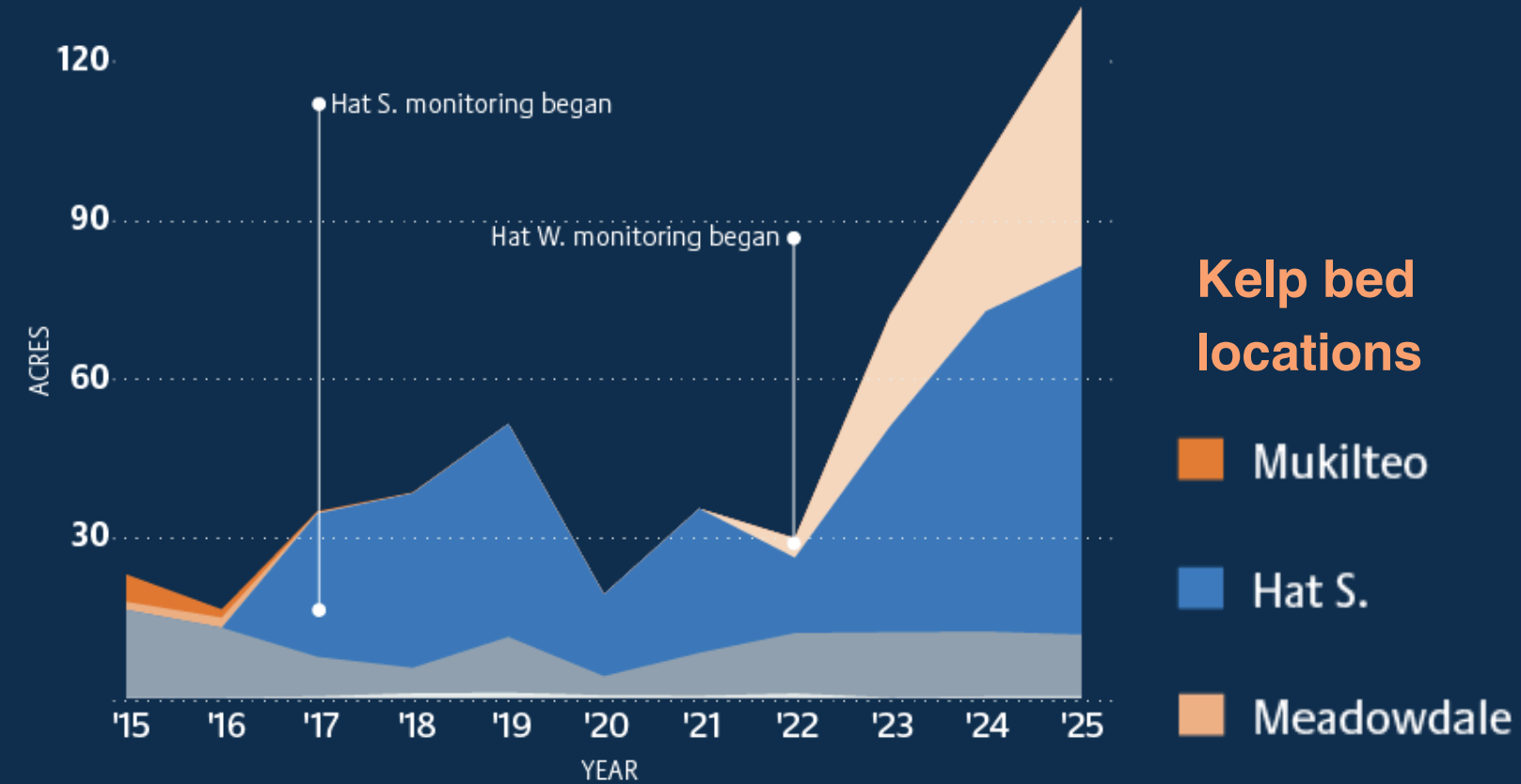


Forage fish eggs observed in several samples in 2025!

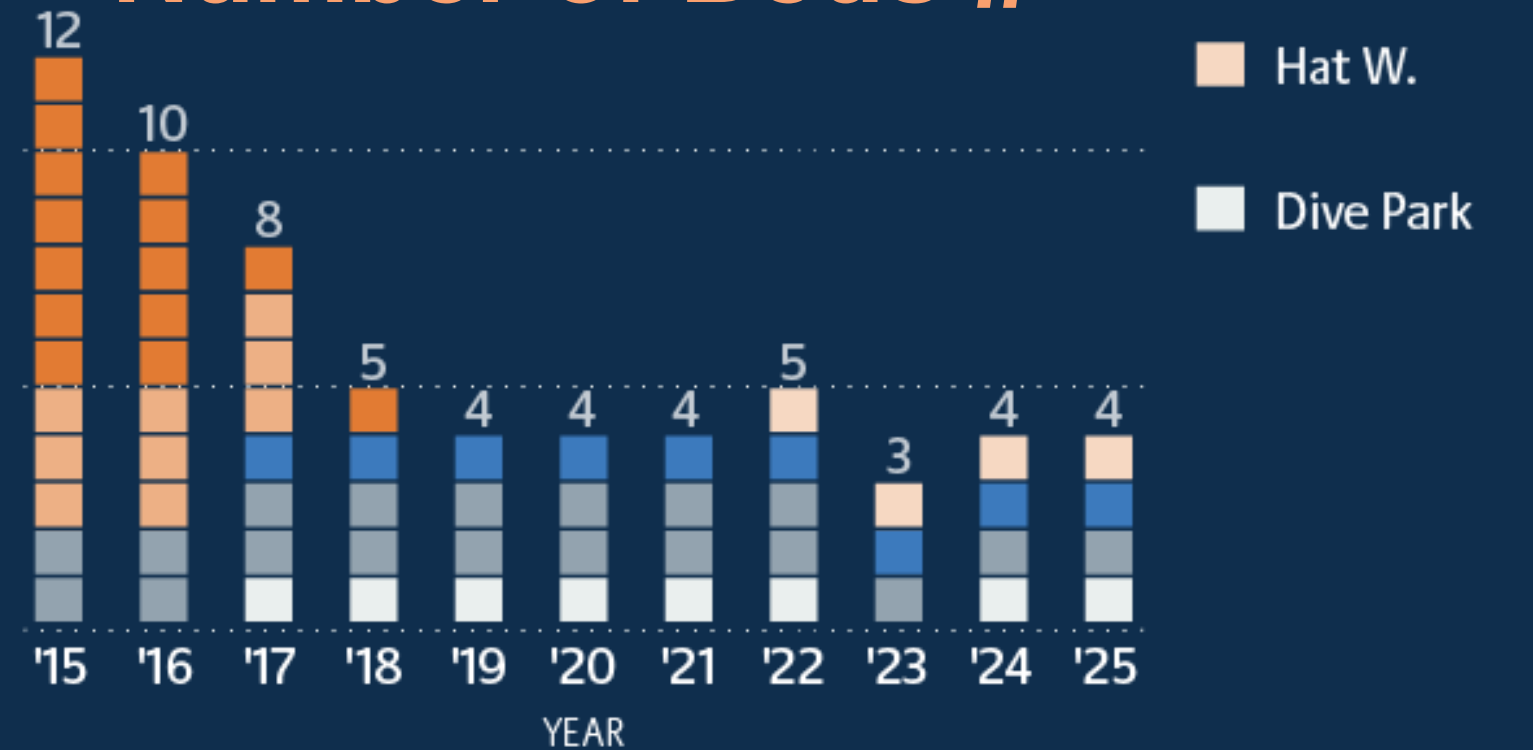


Bull Kelp

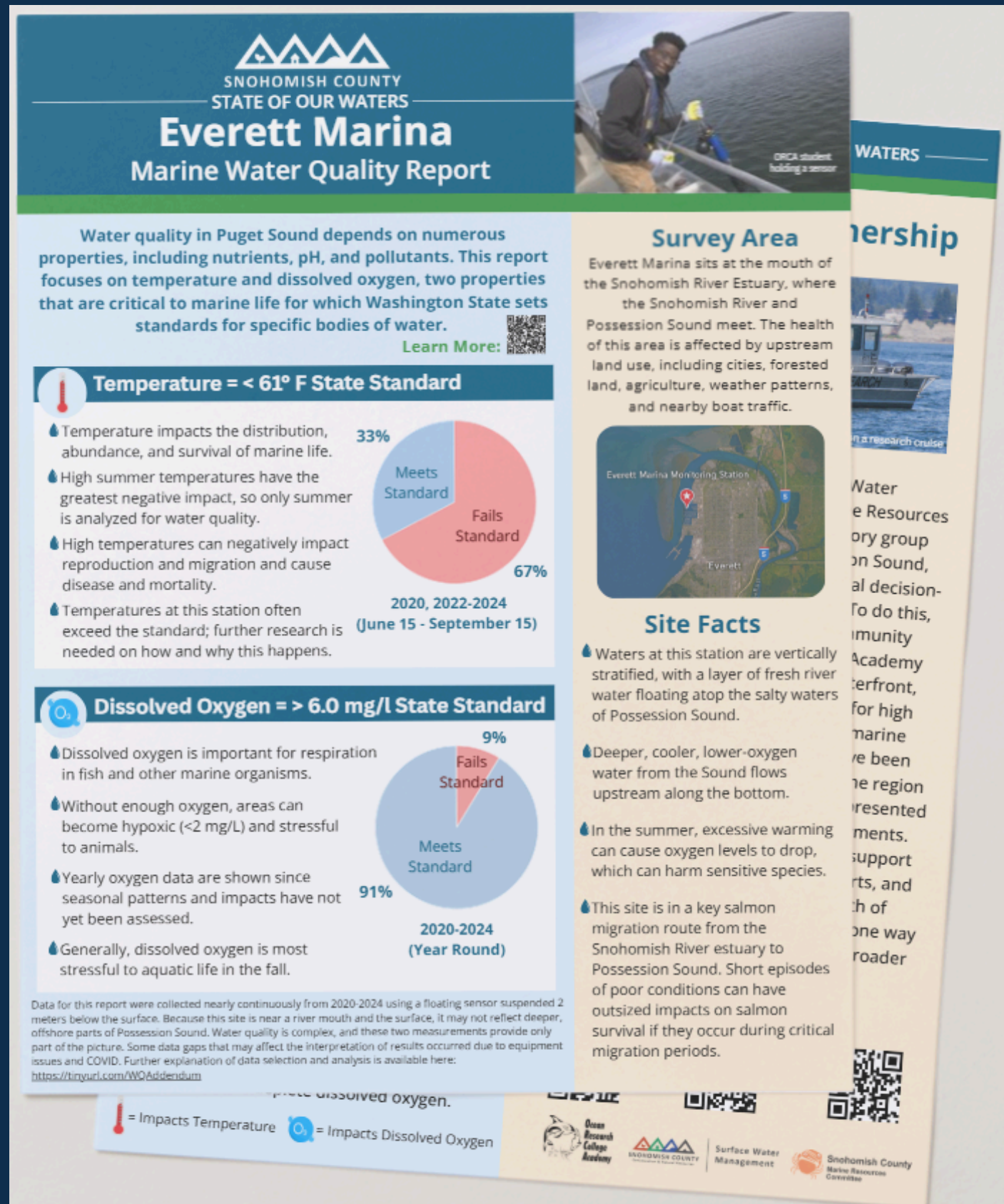
Acres of Beds



Number of Beds



Marine Water Quality



SNOHOMISH COUNTY
STATE OF OUR WATERS
Everett Marina
Marine Water Quality Report

Water quality in Puget Sound depends on numerous properties, including nutrients, pH, and pollutants. This report focuses on temperature and dissolved oxygen, two properties that are critical to marine life for which Washington State sets standards for specific bodies of water.
[Learn More:](#)

Temperature = < 61° F State Standard

- Temperature impacts the distribution, abundance, and survival of marine life.
- High summer temperatures have the greatest negative impact, so only summer is analyzed for water quality.
- High temperatures can negatively impact reproduction and migration and cause disease and mortality.
- Temperatures at this station often exceed the standard; further research is needed on how and why this happens.

33% Meets Standard
67% Fails Standard
2020, 2022-2024 (June 15 - September 15)

Dissolved Oxygen = > 6.0 mg/l State Standard

- Dissolved oxygen is important for respiration in fish and other marine organisms.
- Without enough oxygen, areas can become hypoxic (<2 mg/L) and stressful to animals.
- Yearly oxygen data are shown since seasonal patterns and impacts have not yet been assessed.
- Generally, dissolved oxygen is most stressful to aquatic life in the fall.

9% Fails Standard
91% Meets Standard
2020-2024 (Year Round)

Data for this report were collected nearly continuously from 2020-2024 using a floating sensor suspended 2 meters below the surface. Because this site is near a river mouth and the surface, it may not reflect deeper, offshore parts of Possession Sound. Water quality is complex, and these two measurements provide only part of the picture. Some data gaps that may affect the interpretation of results occurred due to equipment issues and COVID. Further explanation of data selection and analysis is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/WQAdidendum>

Survey Area
Everett Marina sits at the mouth of the Snohomish River Estuary, where the Snohomish River and Possession Sound meet. The health of this area is affected by upstream land use, including cities, forested land, agriculture, weather patterns, and nearby boat traffic.

Site Facts

- Waters at this station are vertically stratified, with a layer of fresh river water floating atop the salty waters of Possession Sound.
- Deeper, cooler, lower-oxygen water from the Sound flows upstream along the bottom.
- In the summer, excessive warming can cause oxygen levels to drop, which can harm sensitive species.
- This site is in a key salmon migration route from the Snohomish River estuary to Possession Sound. Short episodes of poor conditions can have outsized impacts on salmon survival if they occur during critical migration periods.

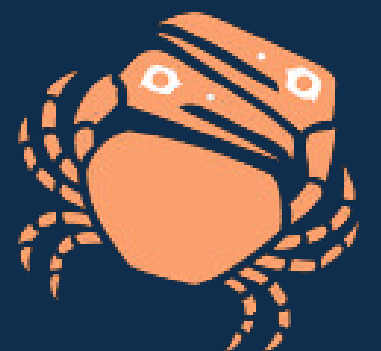
Watershed
Water Resources Group on Sound, a local decision-making community Academy in front, for high marine region presented support, and of one way roader

Legend:
🔴 = Impacts Temperature
🔵 = Impacts Dissolved Oxygen

Logos:
Ocean Research College Academy, Snohomish County, Surface Water Management, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee

Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA) - an early college program at Everett Community College - collects data through instruments located at Everett Marina and Edgewater Beach to monitor water quality in Possession Sound.

The MRC used temperature and dissolved oxygen data collected by ORCA to create our **Marine Water Quality Report Cards.**



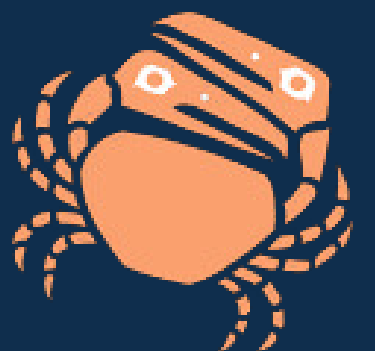
Derelict Vessel Removal



The MRC Identified and removed two owner-abandoned vessels during 2025.

Upon removal of each vessel, SWM coordinates with DNR to recoup 90+% of the project costs through DNR's Derelict Vessels Removal Program.

**From 2018 to 2025,
31 vessels have
been removed.**





In 2025, the MRC participated in



10 events

and published



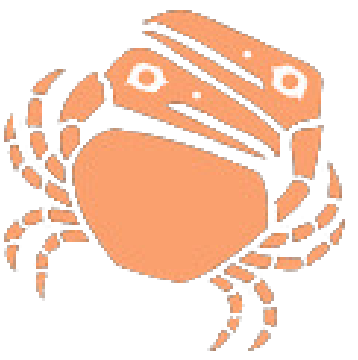
5 media releases

Outreach included:

- Beach walks
- Recreational crabber outreach
- Plastic Free Salish Sea
- Oil spill prevention
- Forage fish monitoring
- Shoreline landowner management practices
- and more...

Outreach and Education

Marine Vegetation Outreach



 **1.5** hour event

 **87** attendees

 **3** info sheets

 **4** presenters

 **2** local artist features

 **3** bookmarks



Looking Ahead



Recommendation: Continue funding the Snohomish County MRC staff, including the Marine Ecology Intern within Snohomish County Surface Water Management. The internship provides critical support to the MRC's work and trains the next generation of local marine ecologists.

For Your Awareness: Washington State DNR and WDFW recently completed the Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy at the state level to:

- Promote protective actions and restoration of nearshore habitat
- Support research and monitoring
- Encourage stewardship and education

As we review the strategy, we plan to inform you about components that are relevant to Snohomish County decision making and our marine vegetation.

The Snohomish MRC appreciates County Council's continued support of the marine environment.