

NEW NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

Marine Habitats

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

- protecting habitats from human activities that cause degradation;
- designing & implementing local & regional projects that restore natural processes;
- surveying & mapping marine resources & physical characteristics of marine habitats; & making policy & scientifically-based recommendations about appropriate management tools to protect marine habitats, including designation of marine protected areas.

Marine Water Quality

Protect marine water quality of the NW Straits region, & restore the health of marine waters by

- working to reduce the input of contaminants, including toxic substances, to NW Straits marine waters;
- promoting management actions that would restore areas experiencing degraded water quality & sediment contamination; &
- designing & supporting projects that will restore & maintain marine waters clean enough for safe marine harvest & consumption.

Marine Life

Protect & restore marine populations to healthy, sustainable levels by

- identifying & carrying out actions to protect & restore species of concern including marine mammals, birds, fish, shellfish & other invertebrates;
- designing & implementing projects to restore native marine plant & animal populations & preventing the introduction & spread of invasive species;
- rebuilding populations of fish species, particularly bottomfish & forage fish; &
- making scientifically-based recommendations about appropriate management tools for species recovery, including designation of MPAs.

Sound Science

Collect high quality data & promote its use & dissemination by

- developing protocols for the collection, analysis & use of scientific data that supports NW Straits goals;
- identifying gaps in data that limit protection & restoration efforts & work to fill those gaps;
- promoting the development of comprehensive, accessible, marine resource databases;
- promoting the consistent collection & coordination of data to assist the efforts of Northwest Straits & its partners in protecting & restoring habitats & species of concern; &
- translating & disseminating scientific information about local marine resources to management agencies & the public.

Education & Outreach

Promote stewardship & understanding of NW Straits marine resources through education & outreach by

- informing the public about threats to living resources & presenting them with practical measures they can take to prevent further harm;
- coordinating outreach & education programs with other organizations & evaluating their effectiveness;
- engaging the public in active stewardship opportunities through community workshops, restoration projects & educational programming; &
- communicating the status of NW Straits habitats & resources to regional policy makers & resource managers.