


Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Conservation Action Plan (2012) Progress Tracker – Beaches/Forage Fish



Last updated 8/15/2023

Progress Legend			
Color coding for each action:			
Needs refinement/consider relevance	No progress made; needs attention	Some progress made; not meeting targeted goals	Progress is on-track or complete

Conservation Target 3: Beaches/Forage Fish. Beaches are instrumental in providing spawning areas for forage fish and maintaining sediment deposition from functioning vegetated bluffs. Forage fish are small schooling fishes that form critical links between the zooplankton community and the rest of the food web from salmon to marine mammals. Certain forage fish in Port Susan spawn on the beaches and need shade to ensure that their eggs survive.

Objective	Strategic Action	2012 Opportunity Rank	Opportunities to Support Progress	Actions Completed To-Date	Action Metrics (if applicable)	
Objective 1: Protect 100% of remaining natural shoreline. Where instances of armoring are legally permissible under the single-family exemption in State law, encourage soft shore armoring.	Strategic Action 1: Strengthen Island County's SMP to reduce hard armoring and increase Snohomish County's and Island County's enforcement by 2020 to ensure objective one is met.	Very high	Minimal opportunity for bulkhead removal identified, and minimal remaining natural shoreline exists	Shoreline parcels analysis for bulkhead removal and protection, Snohomish MRC	Number of permits approved that allow hard armoring.	
	Strategic Action 2: Encourage Snohomish and Island Counties to adopt new or existing soft-shore armoring design standards.	High		Snohomish County adopted requirements to use soft-shore armoring over hard-shore armoring, 2012	Design standards adopted in Snohomish and Island Counties. Design standards adopted.	
	Strategic Action 3: Implementation of education programs targeted at contractors, engineers, realtors and landowners to encourage soft shore armoring and bioengineering and raise awareness about the impacts of shoreline hardening by 2015 and prevent future armoring.	Very high		Shore Friendly workshops - 9 workshops with over 500 participants Soft-shore armoring booklet sent to landowners SHARP, NW Straits Commission, Workshops with Island and Snohomish County, some targeted to realtors	Number of attendees at educational programs/workshops.	
	Strategic Action 4: Change Island County permitting requirements to increase permitting standards for new or enhanced hard armoring and evaluate Snohomish County permitting requirements to determine if standards for new or enhanced hard armoring are adequate.	High		LIOs getting ready to release guidance for bulkheads. 1-page recommendation report expected in mid- 2022.	Shoreline Management Act	Permitting requirements changed.
	Strategic Action 5: Change permit requirements to shift burden of proof from permitter to	Low		Strategic Action on hold due to low opportunity rank. The following action	MRC hosted workshops for Planning an Development Service Department,	

	landowner to require a review process that includes onsite meetings by interested parties similar to forest resources process.		steps will be revised based on future discussions. Action Steps: 1. Provide educational workshops for permitting authorities to verify knowledge of armoring impacts, and increase scrutiny when issuing permits for new or enhanced hard armoring.	2013-2014, Snohomish and Island Counties	
	Strategic Action 6: Protect unarmored shoreline parcels in Port Susan through acquisition.	Medium	Work with <u>Tribes</u> and others such as <u>The Nature Conservancy</u> and <u>Whidbey Camano Land Trust</u> to identify unarmored shoreline for acquisitions.	countyTringle Cove acquisition, Stillaguamish Tribe	<i>Linear feet of unarmored shoreline acquired.</i>
Objective 2: Enhance functionality of 25% of marine vegetated buffers, on public and private lands, by conserving existing buffers and restoring degraded habitat by 2020.	Strategic Action 1: Restore 25% of degraded buffers to functional buffers within 100 feet of the marine shoreline by 2020.	Very high	Partner with <u>Snohomish Conservation District</u> to develop new grant funds for outreach, planning, and implementing riparian restoration. Work to engage with willing landowners. Work with SCD, <u>Island County and Snohomish County Native Plants Stewards</u> to explore plant donations to landowners who are interested in restoring buffers on their properties.	Shore Friendly Assessments: 100 site visits by Island County and Snohomish County to identify shore friendly options.	<i>Acres in protected status within 100 feet of marine shoreline. Acres restored/enhanced.</i>
	Strategic Action 2: Island County SMP amends public and private regulations and incentives for tree and buffer protection by 2014.	Medium	Encourage <u>Island County</u> to develop regulations and incentives for tree and buffer protection in SMP.		<i>Percent of newly developed properties that comply with buffer regulations. Number of landowners who take advantage of buffer incentives.</i>
	Strategic Action 3: Island and Snohomish Counties develop a comprehensive education and outreach plan to enhance marine buffers by 2020.	High		Shore Friendly Workshops	<i>Outreach and education plan implemented.</i> Shore Friendly outreach and education implemented.
<i>Conservation Target Summary: Beaches/forage fish</i>					
	Progress has been made on most of the strategic actions (7 of 9) and the Shore Friendly Workshops and site visits were a success, but one strategic action hasn't made any progress and quantitative targets related to buffers don't have associated data to track detailed progress.				

Progress icons indicating Conservation Target status:	
	On track; meeting or exceeding expected progress on objectives and actions
	Room for improvement; some progress made but more needed



Little to no progress made; work to do in next 10 years

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