

# State-Owned Aquatic Lands



Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands. These lands are managed by DNR to provide a balance of public benefits that includes:

- Encouraging public use and access
- Fostering water-dependent uses
- Ensuring environmental protection
- Utilizing renewable resources

## The Aquatics Division

The DNR Aquatics Division manages a number of programs including:

**Derelict vessel removal**

**Aquatic land leasing**

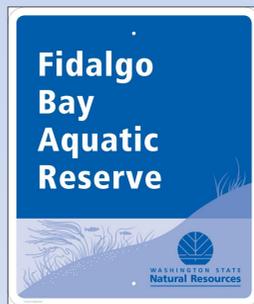
**Creosote piling removal**

**Nearshore habitat restoration**

**Wildstock Geoduck harvesting**

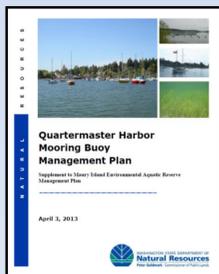
## Aquatic Reserves Program

The Aquatic Reserves Program was established by DNR to promote **preservation, restoration and enhancement** of important native aquatic ecosystems on selected state-owned aquatic lands.



**Activities managed by DNR that occur in Aquatic Reserves:**

- Research & Monitoring
- Outreach & Education
- Mooring buoys & docks
- Wildstock Geoduck Harvesting
- Utility & Pipeline Crossing



For more information contact the Aquatic Reserves Program at (360) 902-1073 or search online for: "Washington Aquatic Reserves"

# Washington State Aquatic Reserves Program

## Protection of important habitats



Eelgrass  
Cherry Point  
Aquatic Reserve



Smith and Minor Islands  
Aquatic Reserve



Bull kelp, Cypress  
Island Aquatic Reserve

## Public use and community involvement



Lowlide Celebration  
Maury Island Aquatic Reserve



Interpretive signs  
Fidalgo Bay  
Aquatic Reserve

## Benefits of the Aquatic Reserves



PSC beach spawning  
forage fish surveys



SeagrassNet monitoring  
Neill Point



Beach nourishment  
Marches Point



PSC & Community Clean-up  
Maury Island Aquatic Reserve

## Ecological inventory and monitoring

## Restoration and enhancement projects

## Establishing New Reserves

### Nomination and Evaluation

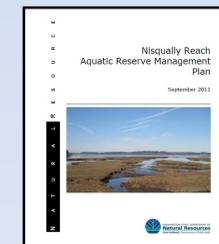
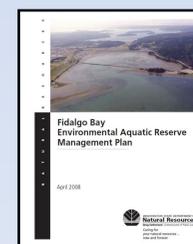
- Data gathering and scientific evaluation
- Community outreach and public input
- Aquatic Reserve site proposal



The process for establishing a new reserve allows for scientific evaluation and extensive public input and involvement at each stage.

### Management Planning

- Technical committee formed to review proposal
- Draft management plan developed
- Management plan goes through environmental review



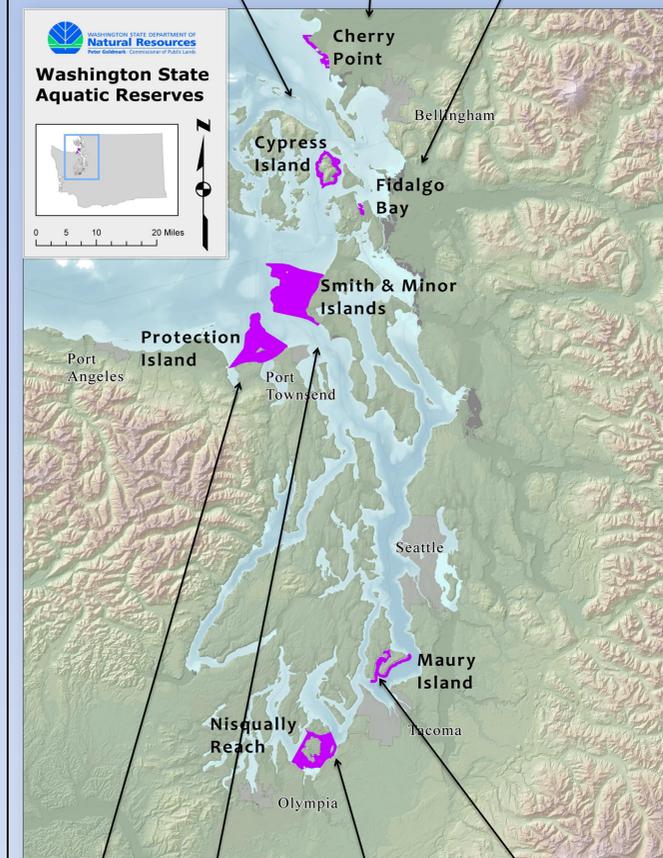
The management plan for each reserve identifies important species and habitats, and establishes goals, objectives and actions that guide management.

### Formal Decision

- DNR Commissioner makes final decision on proposal
- If approved, management plan is adopted and the site becomes an aquatic reserve

## Current Aquatic Reserves

Washington State Department of Natural Resources has established seven Aquatic Reserves throughout Puget Sound to promote the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of state-owned aquatic lands of special educational, scientific, and environmental interest.



State, Tribal, resource managers and local stakeholders develop management plans specific to each reserve to ensure ecological sustainability. Reserve status lasts 90 years.