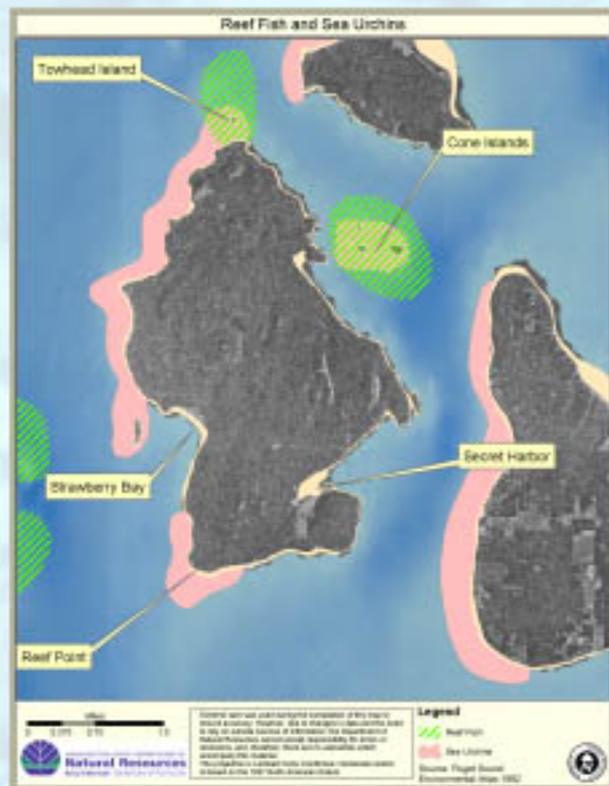


Natural Resources of Cypress Island



Rocky reefs around Towhead Island and the Cone Islands are recognized habitat for depressed stocks of Lingcod and rockfish. These species are closely associated with the specific habitats found in these areas.

In addition, sea urchin populations are common along much of the west side of Cypress Island. Urchins typically feed on broken kelp blades and other kelp detritus. A variety of predators, including otters, wolf eels, starfish, and fish prey on urchins.



Eelgrass meadows provide habitat and feeding grounds for several important species including juvenile salmon, Pacific herring, marbled murrelet, and great blue heron.

Washington State has adopted a policy of no net loss of eelgrass habitat due to its considerable importance as a habitat.



The arrows show nearshore drift cells which describe the movement of sediment along the beach. This ecosystem process is primarily in response to the oblique approach of wind-generated waves. The movement of sediment along the nearshore is vital to replenishing small sediment washed out to sea by wave energy, streams and rivers. Beaches with small sediment are often productive environments that are used by many species as spawning or nesting habitat.



Cypress Island is a rare example of connectivity across habitats – from the mature forests to the undeveloped nearshore, to nearly pristine subtidal areas. Such areas are rare within Puget Sound and are becoming increasingly rare everywhere.

This combination of habitats is used by a number of species, and supports numerous bald eagle nests.