

Northwest Straits

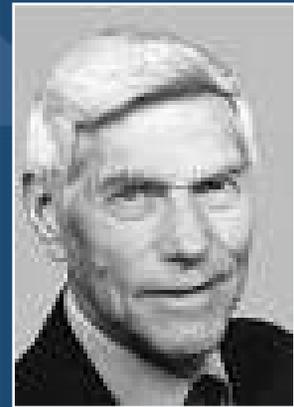
Marine Conservation Initiative



A Local Approach to Protecting and Restoring Marine Resources and Habitats

History of the Northwest Straits Initiative

- U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D) and Congressman Jack Metcalf (R) -- *The Odd Couple*
- The Murray-Metcalf Commission
- Congressional Authorization
- Federal funding
- Bottom-up approach



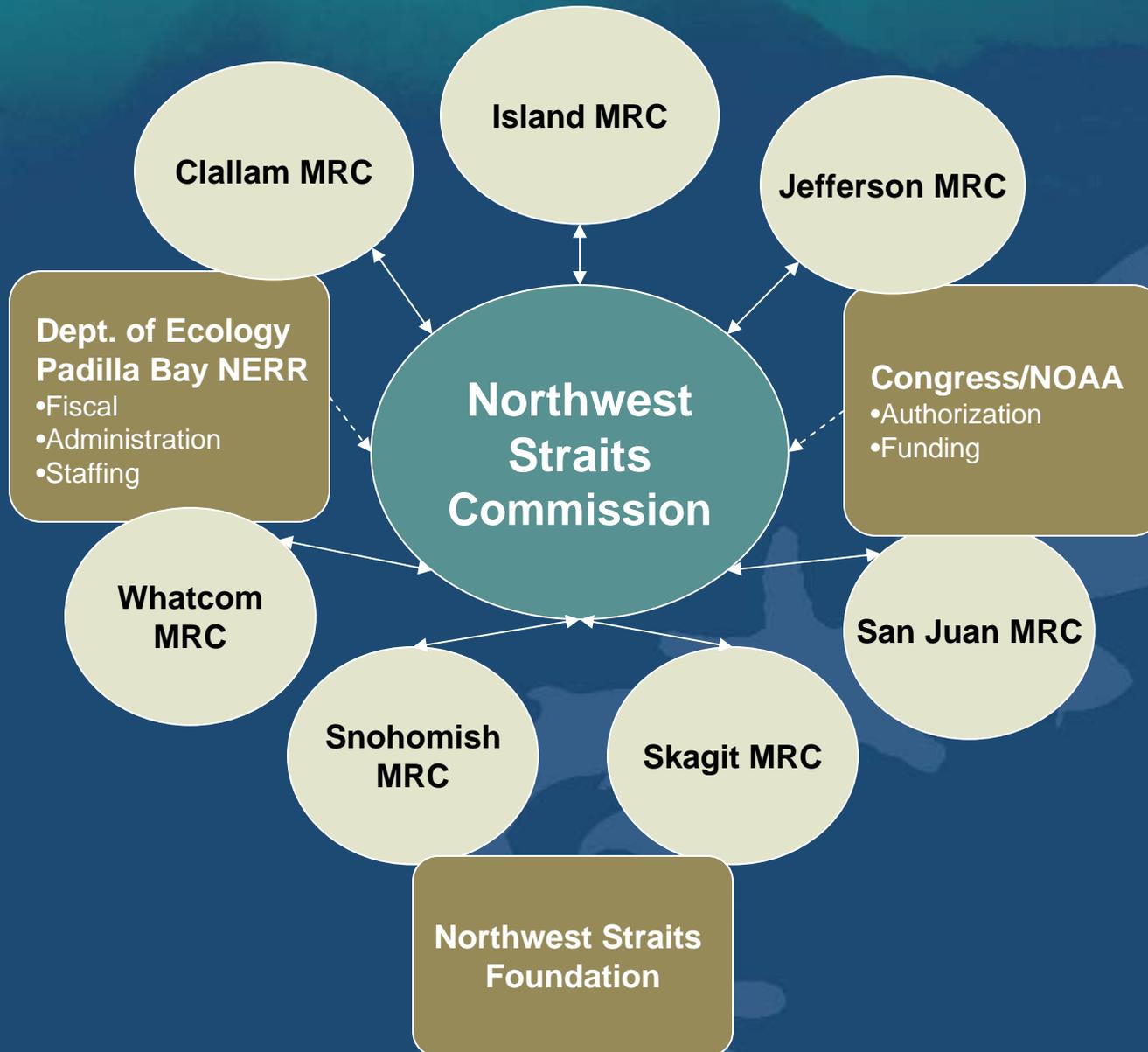


Northwest Straits Initiative was created...

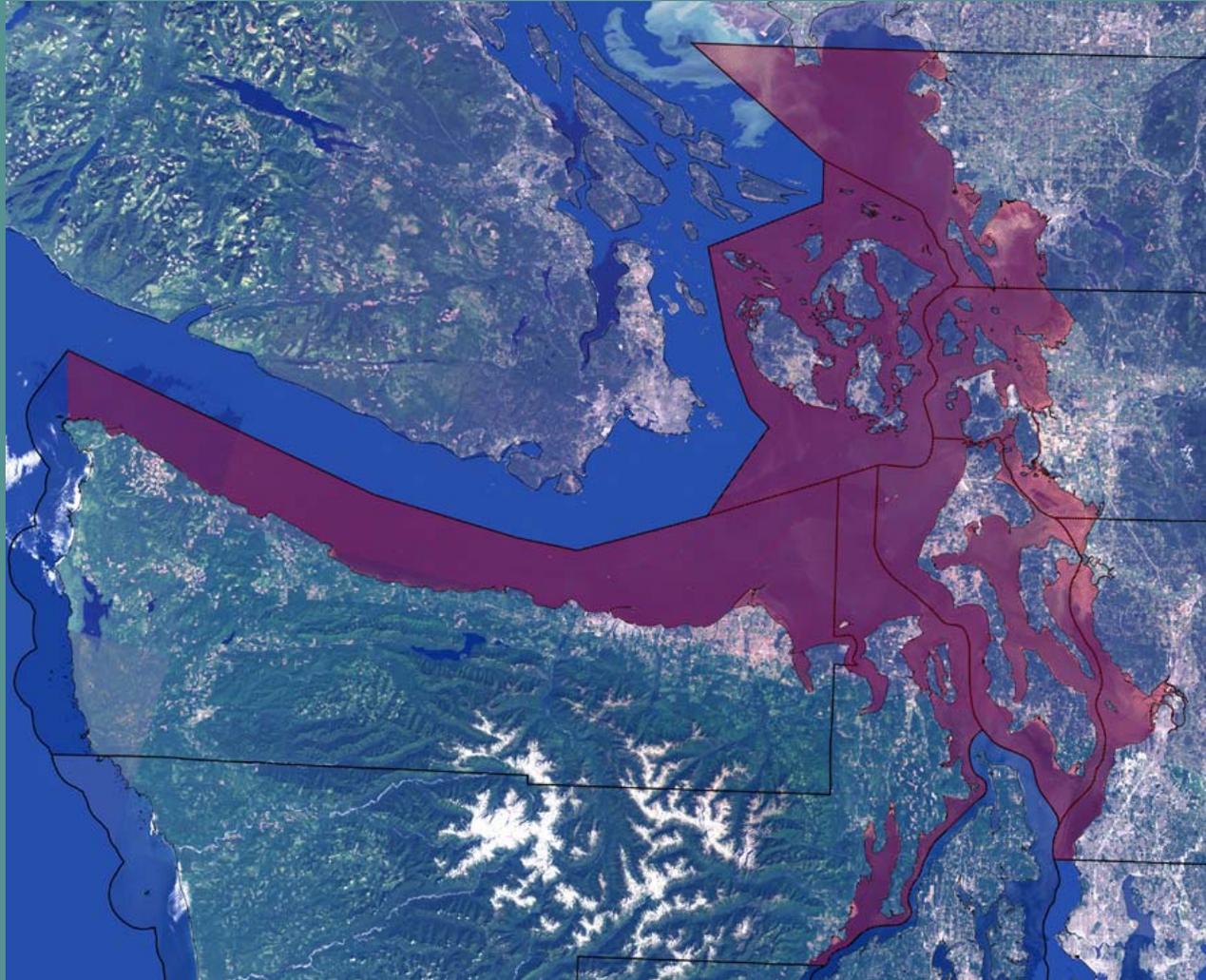
to protect and restore marine waters, species and habitat of the Northwest Straits to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use through a

citizen-based approach.

Northwest Straits Initiative



Where is the Northwest Straits?



- Clallam
- Island
- Jefferson
- San Juan
- Skagit
- Snohomish
- Whatcom

60% of Puget Sound shoreline

Northwest Straits Commission

- Provides funds and other resources to MRCs
- Maintains focus on benchmarks
- Regional focus
- Scientific support
- Training



Seven County Participation



MRC Members:

- Tribal government
- Business
- Scientific expertise
- Recreation
- Environment
- Local government

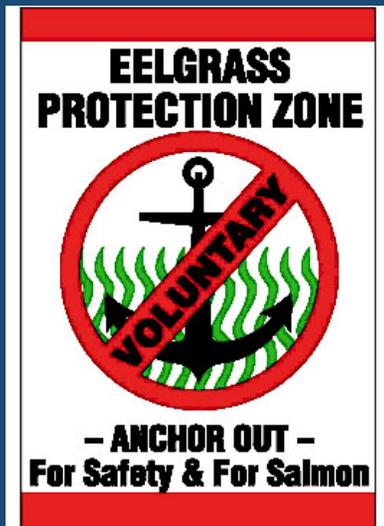
Role of MRCs

- Set local priorities
- Design and carry out projects
- Advisory body to local government
- Coordinate with the Northwest Straits Commission



Voluntary No Anchor Zones (aka eelgrass protection areas)

Education and community involvement as a tool to protect valuable eelgrass beds



Olympia oyster restoration

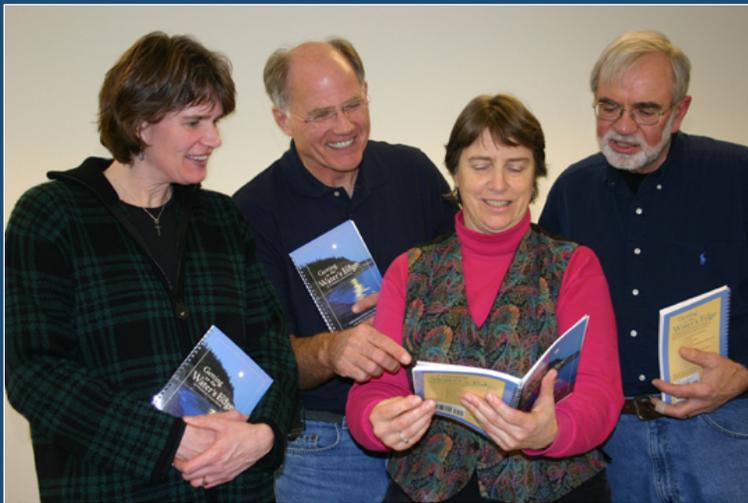
- From 2002-2007, over 2 million seeds planted
- Monitoring shows good growth, low mortality
- Goal is self-sustaining populations



Community education



- Community-based education
- Stewardship information from neighbors
- Hands-on activities



Forage Fish Protection

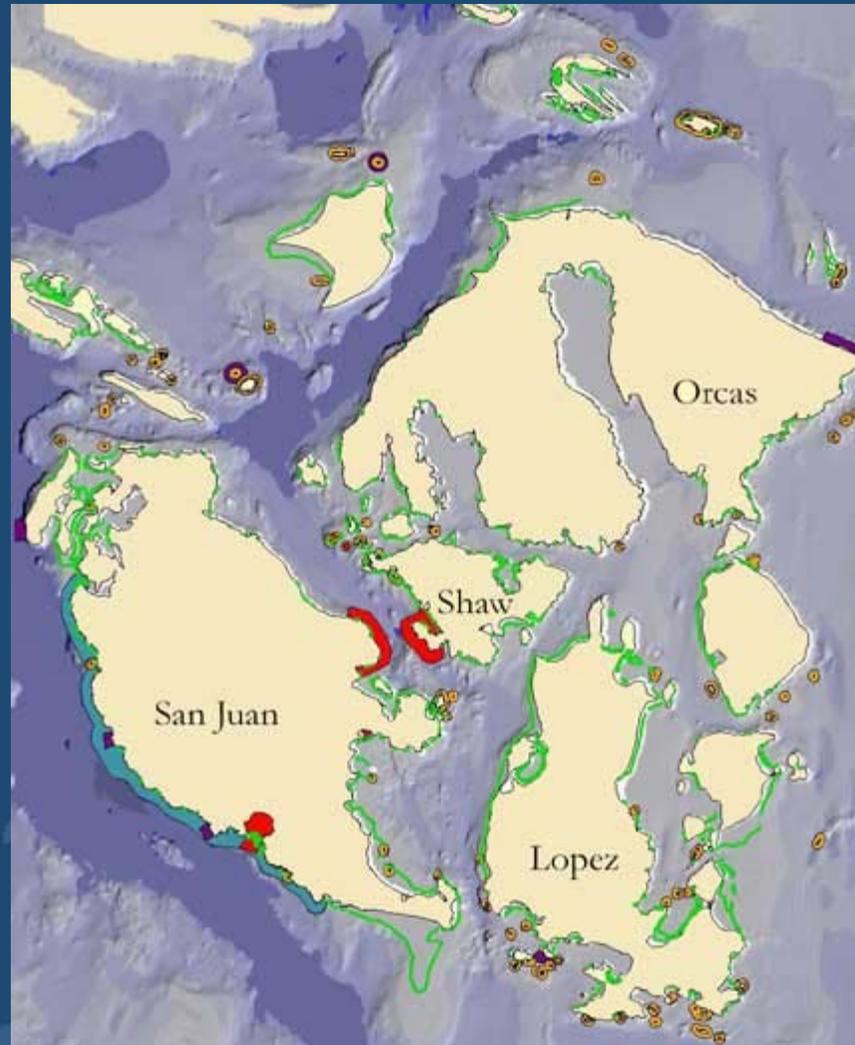
- Protocols developed to provide consistent methodology for scientists and volunteers
- Discovered 32.5 miles of spawning habitat
- Data are now being used by county permit centers, state agencies and tribes



San Juan Marine Stewardship Area

Entire county
waters established
as a Marine
Stewardship Area

(Just do it)



Common threads of MRC work

- Many diverse partners
- Creative solutions without finger pointing
- Action oriented
- Education and outreach elements
- Inexpensive
- Designed by MRC members

Regional Work

- Priority projects that have regional significance
- Managed by Commission
- Often started at MRC level

Hazards of Derelict Fishing Gear

- **Entangle** divers and swimmers;
- **Trap** and wound or kill fish, shellfish, birds and marine mammals;
- **Degrade** marine ecosystems and sensitive habitats;
- **Damage** propellers and rudders of recreational boats, commercial and military vessels

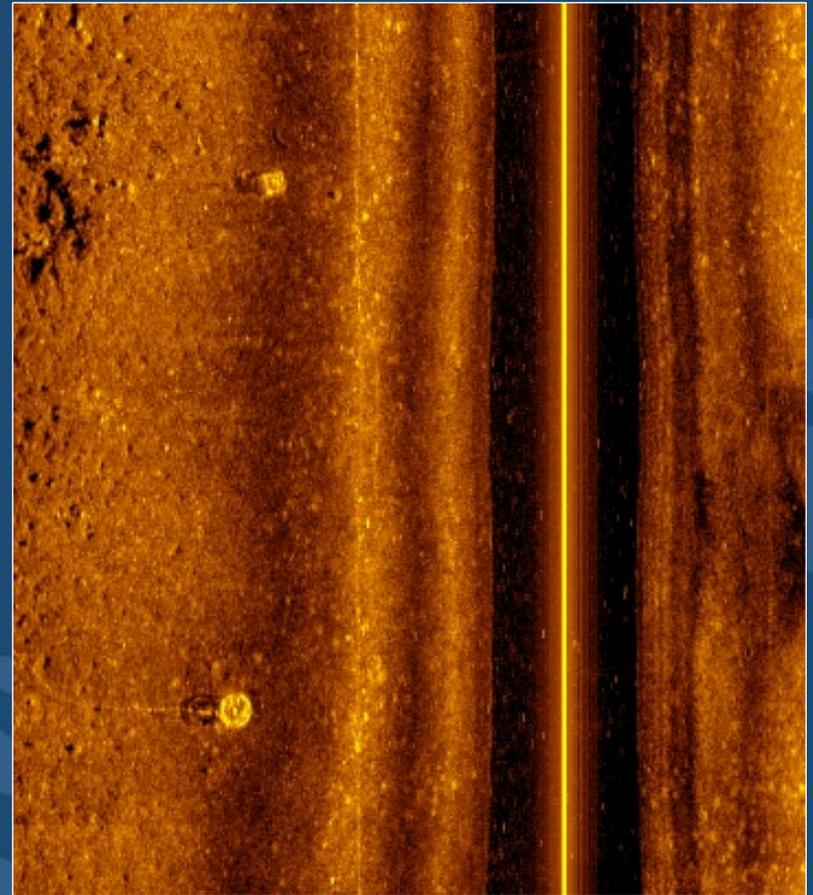


One Gillnet, One Week August '06

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Alive</u>	<u>Dead</u>
Red Rock Crab	10	30
Kelp Crab	12	38
Spiny Dogfish Shark	0	30
Sockeye Salmon	0	25
Chinook Salmon	0	5
Rockfish Unid.	0	30
Kelp Greenling	0	40
Harbor Seal	0	1
Flatfish Unid.	0	90
Spotted Ratfish	0	110
Lingcod	0	30

Results to Date

- 38 sq nautical miles of seabed surveyed
- 1,248 derelict crab pots removed
- 604 derelict nets removed (140 acres of marine habitat restored)



Screen shot of sidescan sonar showing two crab pots located on seabed.

NWS/Partnership linkages

- Partnership representation on Commission (only agency)
- Partnership local liaisons work with MRCs
- MRCs will participate in action area planning processes

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For more information:

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