CLALLAM MRC SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

February 24, 2025
4:00pm – 7:00pm

In-person meeting (work session)
Elwha Klallam Heritage Center, 401 E 1st St, Port Angeles, WA
Eagle's Nest Conference Room
For more information about the MRC, please contact Cathy Lear at (360) 417-2361

4:00 – 4:20 Goal setting and orienting

- Introduce facilitator Nancy Slocum
- Attendees put on name tags
- Review/accept meeting norms
- Group photo

4:20 – 6:00 Project lightning talks with Q&A

- 3-5 minutes per project, 5 minutes Q&A
- Ensure lead and co-lead
- Get snacks as needed

Ediz Hook Debris Removal	Allyce Miller
Launch Advisory Capacity	Ann Soule
Shoreline Armoring Survey	Ann Soule
Kelp and Eelgrass Display at Marine Discovery Center	Ann Soule / Alan Clark
Kelp Monitoring	Alan Clark
Forage Fish Monitoring	Alan Clark
Nearshore Restoration at Co-Managed Wildlife Refuges	Chris Burns
European Green Crab Control	Chris Burns
Olympia Oysters	Chris Burns
Pigeon Guillemot Monitoring	Ed Bowlby
Elwha River Stewardship	Helle Andersen
Derelict Crab Pot Removal	Ioana Bociu / Christopher Rumple
Pinto Abalone	Jeff Ward
HAZWOPER / Oiled Wildlife Response Training	Nancy Stephanz

6:00 – 6:20 "Dots" exercise to mark preferred projects

- Weighted 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice

- Enjoy snacks

6:20 – 7:00 Next steps

- Continuing development process for all selected projects
- Timeline details
- Thank you all for joining!
- Cleanup

Potential partners: City of PA Recreation Department (contact: Tim Tucker)

Submitted by Allyce Miller, representing Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

The recreation department of the city wants to remove a lot of the concrete, asphalt, metal, and trash pieces that are littering the shoreline of Ediz Hook. You can see the attached picture to get an idea. These pieces are falling out of the shoreline as it erodes, and many pieces are already exposed. The city will supply the heavy equipment and operators to remove the big pieces. We thought the MRC could get involved by:

1) Funding the disposal of the concrete and asphalt at local disposal (~$10k)
2) Organizing a volunteer event to pick up smaller pieces of asphalt and concrete ($0)
3) Planting any heavy equipment access scars with native beach plants (~$1k)

This budget needs to be refined as we figure out what cultural compliance is needed and how much there is to be disposed. This $11k is a rough estimate for now. There's always the option of looking for other funding sources if significant cultural compliance or there is a lot to dispose of.

[Tim Tucker] also shared some long-term goals of taking out some asphalted parking and condensing parking options a bit more by the rowing club because that parking area asphalt is fast-eroding into the strait. That part still needs time and planning, so it's not ready to bring forth into the project proposal now, but FYI it is something to look forward to down the line if MRC wants to play a role.

Project: Launch Advisory Capacity

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to facilitate MRC member engagement with planning, permitting and other governmental processes related to shoreline/nearshore/marine development.

Participants: MRC leadership, members, staff; temporary consultant(s)

Activities:

- Establish MRC co-leads and other interested members on a new subcommittee
- Clarify roles and expectations between MRC staff and subcommittee
- Hire temporary consultant (land use planning specialist)
    - Training(s) on permitting processes (must be kept basic) – perhaps consult with Island or San Juan MRC for tips
    - Training on use of adopted Clallam MRC protocol for advisory work
    - Assess usefulness of "white paper" approach to expressing concerns (assume "Concerns list for BOCC" is adopted soon)
    - Consider whether/when MRC wants to be a "technical resource" to permitting staff
    - Interviews or other activities that introduce MRC subcommittee members with regulatory entities from County, Ecology and elsewhere (and vice versa)
        - Determine where/when in permitting process the MRC should engage
    - Shadow/support MRC subcommittee in at least one pilot that includes review and comment on a development proposal

Outputs:

- Online workspace for advisory work
    - Protocol checklists
    - Templates for comment letters, narratives for public speaking
    - Template for "white paper"
    - Template for annual report/ slideshow to BOCC
    - Folders for development activities being studied
- Current directory of appropriate point persons (planners and biologists) and boards from local, state, fed, tribal agencies/entities that work directly on proposals planned in Clallam County, including County DCD, PW, and EH and others
- Established liaison/point person from MRC for these entities

Outcomes:

- Connections with planning and permitting staffs
- Connections with BOCC and other policy makers
- Clarity of the role and capabilities of a new MRC subcommittee and other members in fulfilling our advisory responsibilities

- Clarity of the overlap with educational work

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead and co-lead:** 6-8 hours per month each
- **MRC subcommittee volunteers:** 2-4 hours per month
- **MRC staff:** 15 hours/month first year, 10/month second year (contracting, invoicing, meeting logistics)
- **Consultant:** 50-75 hours total

Estimated contract cost: $10,000

Questions & Comments

1. Highly dependent on committed lead and co-lead
2. Very closely tied with MRC staff and operations
3. Adds a new "project" that staff and all members will need to track more closely than they do for field projects
4. Contactor must be familiar with regulatory processes, agencies and personnel on the NOP
5. This project does not require a QAPP
6. Current concerns in the process: specific wording causing delays in process, MRC being consulted after decisions are made

Project: Shoreline Armoring Survey

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to determine where shoreline armoring currently occurs and make the information public for regulatory and restoration purposes

Participants: MRC member lead/co-lead, staff; contractor

Activities:

- Consult with Snohomish County MRC members involved in similar project
- Consult with County DCD re methods, highest need areas, how to make it most useful, etc.
- Hire aerial shoreline surveyor
    - Pilot
    - Videographer
    - Video analysis / data entry / mapping
    - Geo/biological assessment of prioritized/ relative risk of erosion
    - Prepare report
- Post videos and report online
    - Announce/ disseminate links to regulatory and restoration personnel
    - Conduct public presentation(s)

Outputs:

- Shoreline armoring survey results (map)
- Report useful to regulatory and restoration personnel

Outcomes:

- Reduced risk for armoring projects detrimental to nearshore habitat
- Better restoration outcomes over time

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead/co-lead:** 10 hours
- **MRC staff:** 10 hours
- **Contractor:** 100 hours (WAG!)

Estimated contract cost: $25,000 (WAG)

Questions & Comments

1. Requires buy-in from local gov’ts before it gets started
2. Mostly contracting time from MRC staff
3. Mostly just liaison and supervision time from MRC leads
4. This project does not require a QAPP (I DON’T THINK)

Project: Kelp + Eelgrass Display at MDC (Marine Disco Center / new Feiro)

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to enhance connections with the new Marine Discovery Center through adoption of educational displays specifically on kelp and eelgrass and local occurrences/ trends. Project would also describe Clallam MRC and Northwest Straits Commission efforts to monitor, survey, and restore (future) eelgrass and kelp along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Participants: MRC project lead and co-lead; MRC staff; Feiro staff, board, and interior/display design consultant

Activities:

- Float idea with Feiro staff, board
- Firm up connections with appropriate Feiro/MDC personnel and contractors
- Work with designers on content
- Support as needed
- Pay for display

Outputs:

- Attractive educational display (possibly interactive) installed (and/or portable?) at the new MDC

Outcomes:

- Improved understanding by all viewers of the display regarding what's important about marine vegetation and algae
- Improved relationship between MRC and Feiro/MDC

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead:** 10 hours
- **MRC project co-lead:** 5 hours
- **MRC staff:** 5 hours

Estimated <u>contract</u> cost: $10,000 (?)

Questions & Comments

1. Requires agreement and collaboration with MDC project personnel
2. This project does not require a QAPP

Project: Kayak Kelp Surveys (Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay)

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to enhance connections with the new Marine Discovery Center through adoption of educational displays specifically on kelp and eelgrass and local occurrences/ trends. Project would also describe Clallam MRC and Northwest Straits Commission efforts to monitor, survey, and restore (future) eelgrass and kelp along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Participants: MRC project lead and co-lead; Volunteer for Kayak Survey at Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay

Activities:

- Attend kayak safety meetings
- Work closely with NWSC kelp project coordinator Jeff Whitty
- Participate in Kelp Kayak meetings 4X
- Review year's data with Jeff Whitty and NWSC staff at end of season.
- Process data and get info to NWSC at end of season
-
-

Outputs:

- GPS tracks of monitored kelp beds at Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay
- Submission data sheets and observations of kelp bed

Outcomes:

Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) in Clallam, Jefferson, Island, San Juan, Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties will complete annual surveys of canopy producing kelp bedsusing a field tested, boat-based protocol developed to track the density and distribution of local bull kelp populations. Surveys are done during the peak of annual growth in JuneSeptember.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead:** 40 hours
- **MRC project co-lead:** 40 hours
- **MRC staff:** 15hours

Estimated <u>contract</u> cost: $2,500 (?)

1.

Forage Fish Monitoring

Working in collaboration with the NWSC and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Clallam MRC will continue to monitor forage fish spawning on a monthly basis at 4 locations Cline Spit, Ediz Hook and beaches East and West of the Elwha River Mouth. The mouth of the Elwha River is a restoration site to and documenting forage fish use is invaluable information on temporal and spatial spawning trends by forage fish in Clallam County.

Vision/Goals: What is the vision/ultimate goal of the work? (How are you hoping the ecosystem and/or the community will change because of this project and other efforts? *

The project supports a larger Commission -sponsored forage fish monitoring program that provides a better understanding of the spatial and temporal distributions of forage fish spawning activity within the Salish Sea. The goals of the project are: document forage fish spawning events and build partnerships with tribes through shared project collaboration. The ultimate goal is to have accurate spatial population data for forage fish populations. We also hope to educate the public and County officials about the importance of forage fish .

Participants and Partnerships: Participants and Partnerships: Please include any participants and partners directly involved with the work. If none, insert n/a.

Partners include: WDFW, NWSC and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe are our project partners.

Activities - Briefly describe the main activities of your project. (The tasks and actions - science, monitoring, training, presentations, etc. accomplished by the project.

The Clallam MRC will continue monthly sampling of forage fish at Cline Spit, Ediz Hook and East and West beaches of the Elwha River. The project leads will also give a yearly public presentations at a MRC meeting and Board of County Commissioners meeting and school groups.

Outputs - What are the expected outputs of this project?

This project supports a regional project that monitors forage fish spawning habitats in the Salish Sea. The information will also provide a better understanding of forage fish ecology this knowledge will help to provide management decisions.

Outcomes - How will the activities and outputs measurably further the goal(s) of the project. (Short-term changes you envision happening as a consequence of this work or things you might start to see within the timeline of the project.

This project is part of on going forage fish monitoring so we hope to collect valuable forage fish spawning events. This data will play a role in the bigger WDFW database documenting status and trends.

Does your proposed project involve education and outreach? Yes

Does your project involve monitoring? Yes

What monitoring protocols will be used? Will the data affect a decision about marine resources? Where will the monitoring data go? Are the data contributing to a larger baseline data set?

WDFW forage fish sampling protocols will be used. The monitoring data could affect a decision about marine resources. The monitoring data will go to WDFW and contribute to their larger baseline data set.

Does your project involve restoration? Yes

Are there any permits required? If so, what are their status? Who has ownership of the project site? Has a cultural assessment of the site been completed (if applicable)? Is there any ongoing maintenance associated with the project? Permits are complete LEKT has ownership of East Elwha beach and we have a current science collection permit with the Tribe. No ongoing maintenance.

Please provide a list of deliverables (if applicable): **previous grant's information*

Year one forage fish Quality Assurance Project Plan addendum 1/14/2024

Year two Forage fish Quality Assurance Project Plan Addendum 1/14/2025

Project: Nearshore Restoration at Co-managed Wildlife Refuges

Project Plan

Goal: Restore nearshore habitat at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's co-managed Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (JST) refuge staff

Activities: Remove over 10 acres of invasive vegetation, nearshore restoration plantings; monitor; report

Year 1 – Organize volunteer crews to participate in hand pulling and/or mechanical removal of invasive Dalmatian toadflax and non-native grasses from sand spits and salt marsh habitat on National Wildlife Refuges

Year 2 – Continue removal efforts in late spring. Plant with native species.

Outputs: Removal of invasive vegetation, native vegetation plantings

Outcomes: The removal of non-native invasive vegetation will reduce competition with native species, enhance nearshore habitat quality and availability, and strengthen ecosystem structure and function. These restoration efforts will improve the ecological resilience of the co-managed National Wildlife Refuges, supporting long-term habitat health. Additionally, the project will foster community engagement by providing volunteer opportunities that connect people to conservation efforts and promote stewardship of these vital ecosystems.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 5 days to participate in invasive vegetation removal efforts and 2 days to participate in plantings

Estimated time for partners: 40 hours

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 10 hours?

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe staff: 80 hours

Estimated cost: $15,000

Questions & Comments

- The project areas—Graveyard Spit on the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge and Violet Spit on Protection Island Wildlife Refuge—serve as critical habitat for marine mammals, seabirds, and shorebirds.
- Invasive vegetation, such as Dalmatian toadflax (a Washington State Class B Noxious Weed) and non-native grasses, can restrict wildlife mobility and reduce available foraging areas.
- To protect these sensitive habitats, removal efforts will focus on hand-pulling and mechanical methods like digging, ensuring minimal disturbance to native species. Biological control methods will not be used.
- The project will engage existing volunteers from the Dungeness and Protection Island Refuge Management Program, fostering hands-on stewardship and strengthening community involvement in conservation efforts.

Project: European Green Crab Control

Project Plan

Goal: Control and aim to eliminate invasive European green crab (EGC) from Dungeness Spit Wildlife Refuge and other locations (as needed) in Clallam County.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (JST) refuge staff

Activities: JST refuge staff will lead a volunteer effort to trap and remove EGC; report

Outputs: Trapping and removal of EGC in known location on Dungeness Spit

Outcomes: Control or elimination of the EGC population on Dungeness Spit

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: depending on recruitment and participation of volunteers 7hrs/day 28hrs/ week 10 weeks- 280 hrs???

Estimated time for partners: 40 hrs/week at $1200/week for up to 20 weeks

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 20 hours

Estimated cost: $24,000

Questions & Comments

- Cost variable depending on how much time we want to pay for a Biological Technician to supervise volunteers.
- Volunteers would have to go through training (including safety) by Tribe. Volunteers would likely be scheduled through existing volunteer program at the River Center and Refuge but could count as hours for MRC (?)
- If other areas are found to have EGC may be room for trained volunteers to help there.

Project: Olympia Oysters

Project Plan

Goal: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will work with the Clallam County Marine Resources Committee's Olympia Oyster Restoration Lead and Clallam MRC Coordinator to plan, coordinate and implement the Olympia Oyster Population Surveys.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe staff

Activities: Monitor growth and survival of Olympia Oyster restoration efforts in Sequim Bay through the performance of population surveys.

Outputs: Agreements with partners; Monitor Olympia Oyster population, growth and survival on previously restored Olympia Oyster beds in Sequim Bay.

Outcomes: Approximately 1.5 acre of Olympia oysters are monitored

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 3 days to survey habitat

Estimated time for partners: 30 hours/yr

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 30 hours/yr

Estimated cost: $2704.20/yr

Questions & Comments

- Cost variable depending on survey conditions and County and Tribal staff time.
- Will surveys continue beyond 2025?
- Clarify future goals for the site with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe staff
- Not open to community volunteers, only MRC members (policy of the Tribe + muddy conditions)

Project: Pigeon Guillemot Nesting Monitoring for 2025

Project Plan

Goal: Monitor Pigeon Guillemot (PIGU) nesting season as an indicator species of nearshore health.

Participants: MRC members, Olympic Peninsula Auditor Society (OPAS) members and public participants.

Activities: Visual monitoring of PIGU spring through summer nesting activities, including feeding and disturbance behaviors and nesting success.

Outputs: Agreements with OPAS partner for refresher training of returning volunteers (or new training for novice observers paired with seasoned observers).

Outcomes: Continued monitoring efforts (since 2016) for Clallam County PIGU colonies along the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC (or OPAS and/or public) volunteers: 1-2 hours per week from June to August (unless extended due to continued PIGU burrow activity into September)

Estimated time for partners: Minimum of 10 weeks of survey time.

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteer leads (Ed Bowlby and Mary Sue Brancato): 100 hours

Estimated MRC cost: $200-$500, depending if OPAS cost-shares this project with MRC for 2025 (looking more likely in 2025).

Questions & Comments

Cost variable depending on whether OPAS cost shares with MRC. This is looking more likely in 2025. This is a contribution to the Salish Sea Guillemot Network coordination effort with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Survey123 data management system.

Project: Elwha River Stewardship

Project Plan

Goal: To protect and improve water quality, contribute to nearshore habitat and species protection, and encourage community stewardship.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff (Surfriders are affiliated with this project as they are paying for a second Sanikan in the parking lot).

Activities: Maintaining the dog waste station refilling dogi bags twice a month. Counting cars in the parking lot to estimate number of 2024-25 visitors. Paying Bill Plumbing for maintaining the Sanikan on the dike.

Outputs: Contract with Bill Plumbing; Purchase and distribute more than 5,200 dogi bags per year; Weekly maintenance of a well-used Sanikan (per Bill's Plumbing).

Outcomes: Provide sanitary facilities for more than 50,000 people and 9,700 dogs based on 2023-24; In addition, hundreds of students use the beach as an outdoor classroom (not part of the visitation estimate).

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 2-3 hours per month or 24-36 hours per year to maintain the dog waste station based on driving distance from Port Angeles. 20 hours to write the annual project report. Total 44-56 hours per year.

Estimated time for partners: don't know Surfriders time commitment.

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 5-10 hours? Ensuring the continuation of the contract with Bill Plumbing; Checking annual project report written by the lead.

Estimated cost: $3,200 annually – total $6,400

Questions & Comments

- Do we want to find a cost sharing partner? (based on a question raised during the project discussion in 2023).

Project: Derelict Crab Pot Removal

Project Plan

Goal: Train Port Angeles MRC and local community on effective derelict crab pot removal techniques using a Blue Robotics BlueROV2 and remove derelict gear around Port Angeles City Pier and other PA crabbing locations.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Consultants (Remote Coast Systems – Phil Parisi)

Activities: Acquire Blue Robotics ROV; Determine Pot Locations; Obtain Permits; Remove Crab Pots; Report & Continuation Plan

Outputs: Trained intern(s); proofed means for low-cost crab pot removal

Outcomes: Reduced harm on environment by derelict crab pots

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 3 days for training/testing, 2 days for crab pot removal, few days for permitting

Estimated time for partners: 20-30 @ $100/hr hours

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 40 hours

Estimated cost:

- BlueROV, batteries, gripper $10K
- Hooks, lines, deployment gear $1K
- Surveys (or data access) to determine pot locations $4K
- Permitting
- Training Time (3 days x 5 staff x rate?)
- Pot pulling with guidance
- Intern pot pulling
- Reporting (best practices, continuation plan)

Questions & Comments

- Getting permits for removal of pots
- What is the end of life of the crap pots
- Deployment off of piers first, then a boat…
- How can operations be sustained long-term

PINTO ABALONE: PROJECT PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE WORK IN FY 2026-2027

Goal: Restoration of Sustainable Pinto Abalone Populations in the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Participants:

Organization	**Role and Responsibility**
Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (CCMRC)	Project oversight, participation in diver surveys and data collection, education and outreach
Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF)	Manages project planning and implementation, conducts dive surveys, coordinates with CCMRC liaison, creates reports and manages data
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Technical guidance, diver survey vessel support, as needed
Local support vessels	Support for dive surveys, as needed
Local scientific divers	Support for dive surveys, as needed

Activities:

- **Synoptic diver surveys along the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Strait) following standardized abalone survey protocols to document existing remnant abalone populations, identify potential index sites for long-term monitoring, assess areas of interest for future restoration efforts that include outplanting of laboratory-cultured juvenile abalone.**
- **Education and outreach to local Clallam County government and citizens on the importance of abalone to contribute healthy subtidal ecosystems.**

Outputs:

- **Potential improvements to PSRF/WDFW abalone survey protocols for use in the Strait.**
- **Creation of maps and survey data showing the locations of remnant populations (with limited distribution disclaimer).**
- **In collaboration with PSRF and WDFW, identification of possible locations for index sites and potential outplanting locations for abalone monitoring and restoration.**
- **Developing of briefing documents and presentation material for Clallam County government and citizens that highlight the importance of abalone restoration.**

Outcomes

- **Successful completion of this project may result in the restoration of self-sustaining populations of pinto abalone to areas along the Strait where they were extirpated by recreational harvesters.**

- **At a minimum, results from these surveys will provide valuable population data on this state-listed endangered species along the Strait of Juan de Fuca that can be used to inform marine stewardship activities, including oil spill response planning,**

HAZWOPER / Oiled Wildlife Response Training

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response/Oiled wildlife training: conduct workshop trainings for volunteers on marine stewardship and protection topics such as Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response.

Budget: $7,000 / year

1. Coordinate with partners, plan, advertise, and conduct at least two workshop trainings for volunteers on marine stewardship and protection topics such as Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response.

2. Record the trainings and make them accessible online.

Where applicable, the RECIPIENT must request and receive written approval in advance by ECOLOGY's Project Manager for reimbursement(s) for meals or light refreshments. Approved request forms must be submitted with the corresponding Payment Request/Progress Report (PRPR) in EAGL.

Task Goal Statement

The goal of this project is to train local residents in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response in the event of an oil spill.

Task Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this project are that at least 80 participants will be trained, and four recorded training presentations will be posted on the RECIPIENT's website.

Deliverables

4.1. 2024 Training plan and recruitment materials. Upload in EAGL. 1/15/2024

4.2 Meal approval form (if applicable). Submit to ECOLOGY Project Manager for approval prior to each meeting. Submit approved copy with each Payment Request/Progress Report (PRPR). 1/15/2024

4.3 2024 Project final report including summary of trainings, list of trained participants, photos, and links to recorded sessions. Upload in EAGL. 12/31/2024

4.4 2025 Training plan and recruitment materials. Upload in EAGL. 1/10/2025

4.5 2025 Project final report including summary of trainings, list of trained participants, photos, and links to recorded sessions. Upload in EAGL.

WA DNR


Protection Island
National Wildlife Refuge
Established August 26, 1988
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior


©Govinda Rosling

West Elwha Beach Stewardship

Helle Andersen

Alternate Representing Marine Related Recreation and Tourism

How did the MRC Get Involved

- 2015 Port Angeles bans fireworks within city limits
- 2016 – 2018 beach clean-up after 4th of July

How did the MRC Get Involved

- 2016 – 2018 project for the intern program
  - 2017 intern is alarmed to see 50 dog poops on the dike access (~1,000 ft)
  - 2017 Surfriders ask if the MRC is willing to fund a Sanikan closer to the beach
- Since 2018 the MRC has funded a Sanikan and a dog waste station at the trailhead

Project Goal

To protect and improve water quality, contribute to nearshore habitat and species protection, and encourage community stewardship

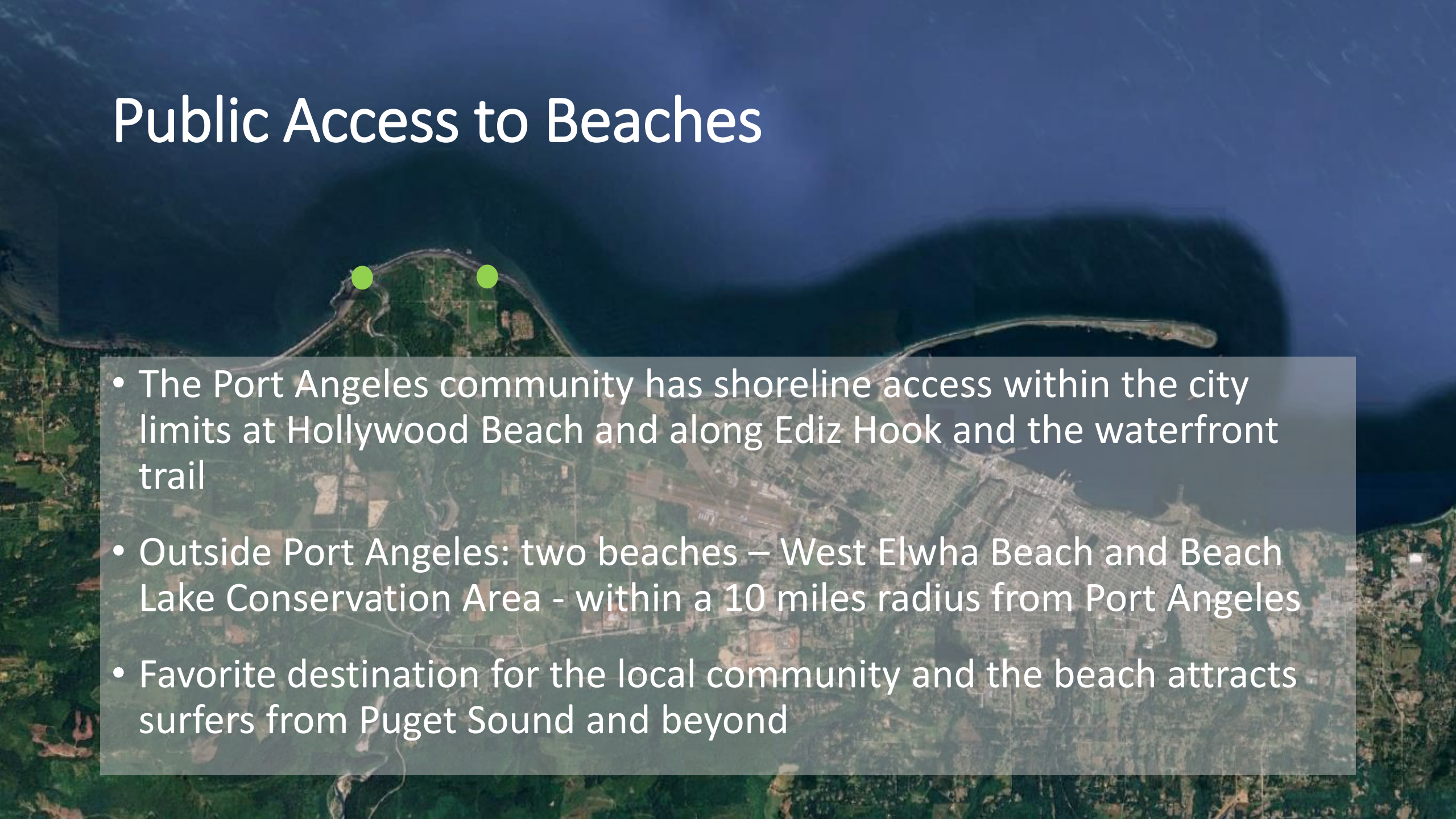
Clallam MRC 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 - 2024)

"GOAL 3: Promote Environmental Stewardship Promoting environmental stewardship is a primary CCMRC responsibility and a key part of achieving our mission to protect and restore the near shore marine resources. One of the most effective means of accomplishing this goal is through educating and engaging the citizens and students of Clallam County in our programs."

Clallam MRC 5-Year Strategic Plan (2025 - 2029)

"GOAL 3: Promoting environmental stewardship, engaging local residents in citizen science, and involving partner organizations."

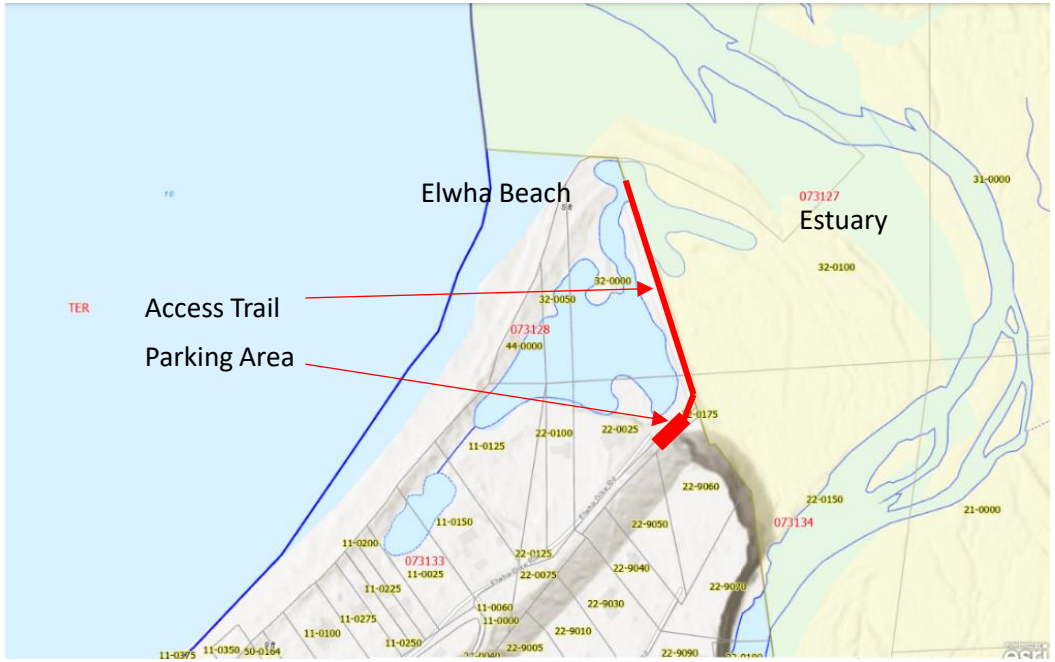
Public Access to Beaches

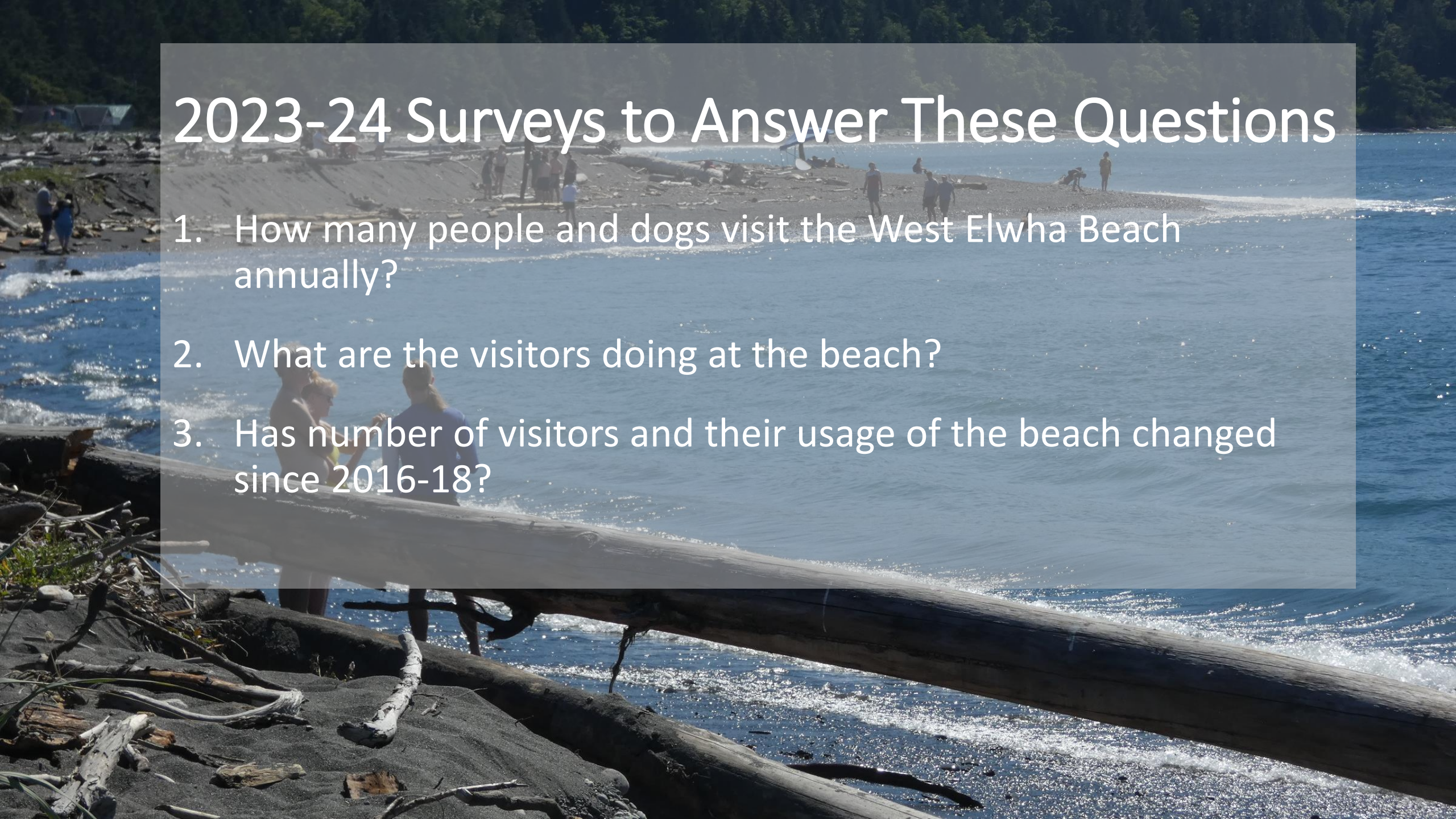


- The Port Angeles community has shoreline access within the city limits at Hollywood Beach and along Ediz Hook and the waterfront trail
- Outside Port Angeles: two beaches – West Elwha Beach and Beach Lake Conservation Area - within a 10 miles radius from Port Angeles
- Favorite destination for the local community and the beach attracts surfers from Puget Sound and beyond

West Elwha Beach

- Land owned by the Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe and private residents
- The access road "Elwha Dike Road" is maintained by Clallam County





2023-24 Surveys to Answer These Questions

1. How many people and dogs visit the West Elwha Beach annually?
2. What are the visitors doing at the beach?
3. Has number of visitors and their usage of the beach changed since 2016-18?

Survey Methods

- Installation of a car counter by the Clallam County Public Works
- On-foot surveys counting number of people and dogs at the beach and categorizing what they were doing
- Visitor questionnaire – 7 questions

Car Counter

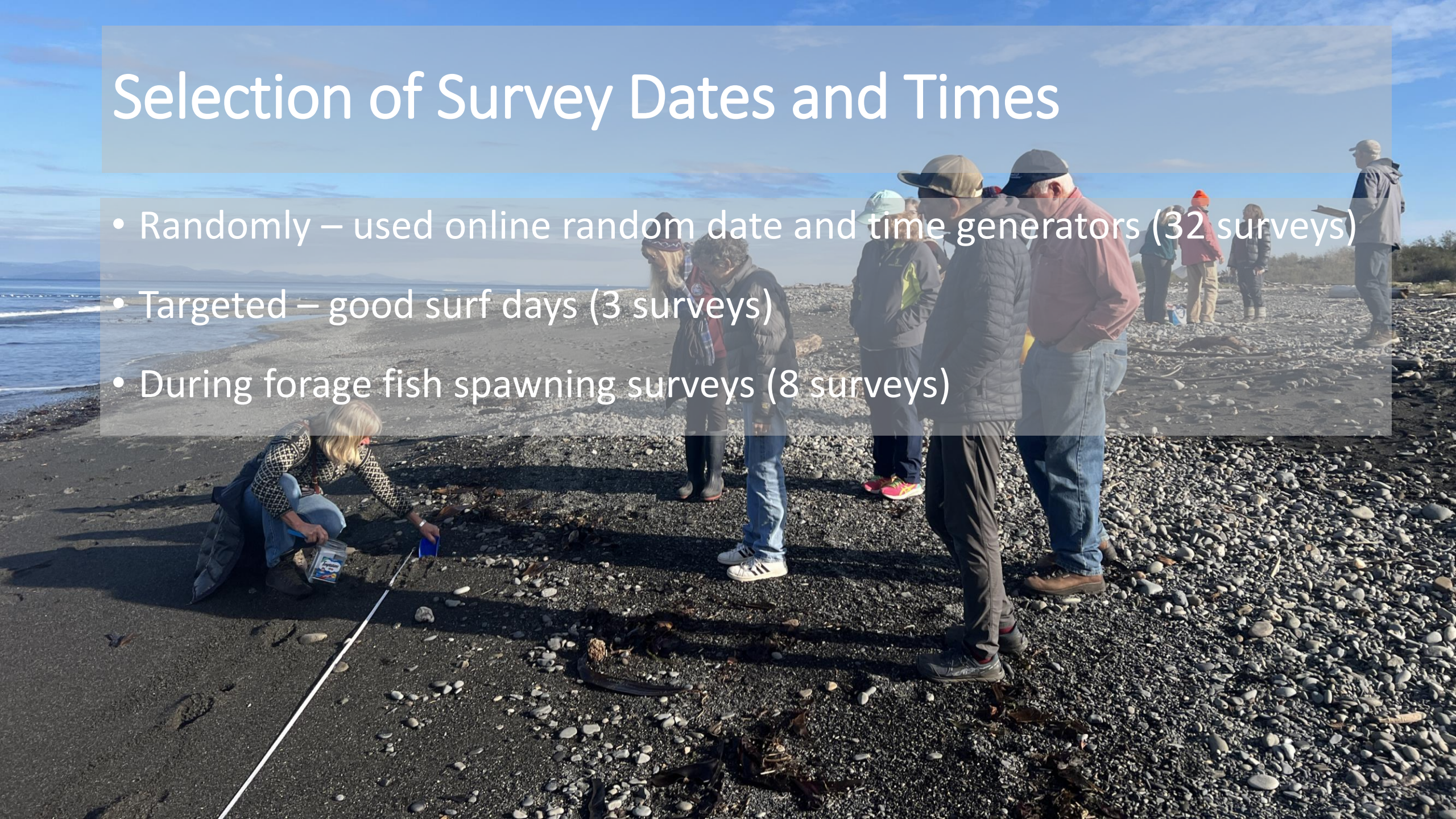
- Count on wheel contact (pneumatic counter)
- Left for 7 days
- Statistical program provides the total numbers of east and west bound cars
- Two surveys: October 23-30, 2023 and August 6-13, 2024

Estimate of Numbers of Visitors and Dogs

- Washington State Parks multiplies the number of cars by 3.5. The 3.5 multiplier was set to average the number of visitors per car and account for visitors arriving by non-vehicle options
- Use the same approach, but decided to derive a site-specific multiplier based on the on-foot surveys

Selection of Survey Dates and Times

- Randomly – used online random date and time generators (32 surveys)
- Targeted – good surf days (3 surveys)
- During forage fish spawning surveys (8 surveys)



On-Foot Surveys

- Initiated by counting the cars in the parking lot
- Counting all people and dogs along the access trail and on the beach
- Recording what were they doing
- Recorded the weather, tide and surf conditions
- Count of dog poops on the dike access trail
- The surveys usually lasted about ½ hour – linking people and dogs at the beach to the cars counted at the trailhead

Calculations of People and Dogs per Car

- Two sets of site-specific multipliers:
  - Fall/winter months (Oct. – March; 15 random surveys)
  - Spring/summer months (April – September; 17 random surveys)
- People per car were 1.60 (fall/winter months) and 1.73 (spring/summer months)
- The multipliers for dogs were 0.36 and 0.31
- Number of cars: Oct. 378 and Aug. 765

How Many People and Dogs Visit West Elwha Beach Annually?

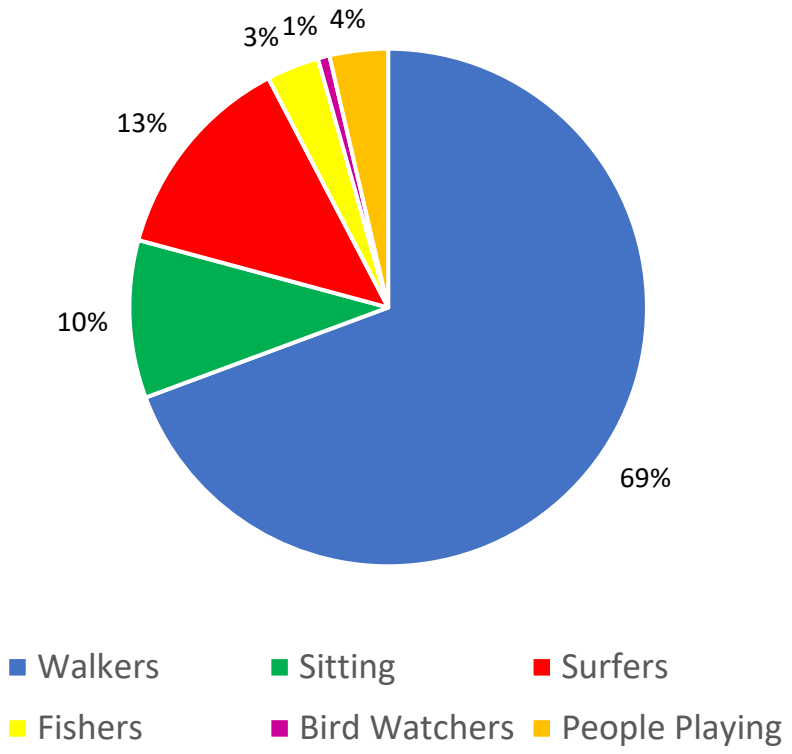
- Fall/winter months 15,811 people and 3,558 dogs
- Spring/summer months 34,599 people and 6,200 dogs
- Total estimates 50,410 people and 9,757 dogs visiting the Elwha Beach in 2023-24
- Likely an underestimate of number of people

Has Number of Visitors and Their Usage of the Beach Changed Since 2016-18?

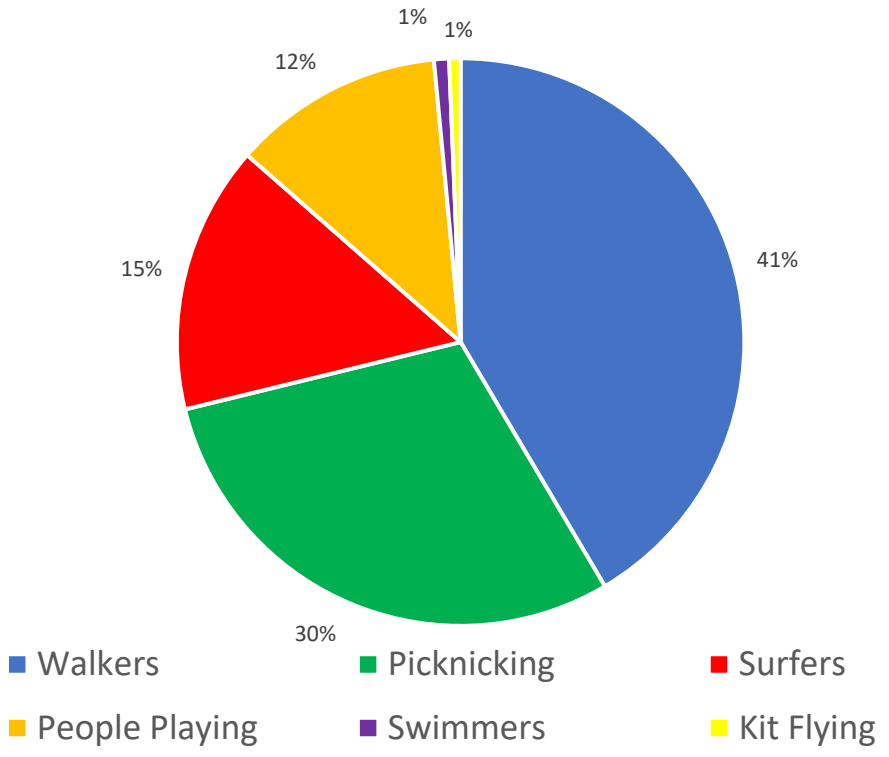
- The intern in 2018, Collin Boe, counted the cars, but stayed at the beach for 1-2 hours counting people, dogs and recording what they were doing
- 2018 averaged 12 cars (+/- 7) in the 26 surveys
- 2023-24 averaged 7 cars (+/- 5) in the 32 random surveys and 8 cars (+/- 5) during all 44 surveys

What Are the Visitors Doing at the Beach?

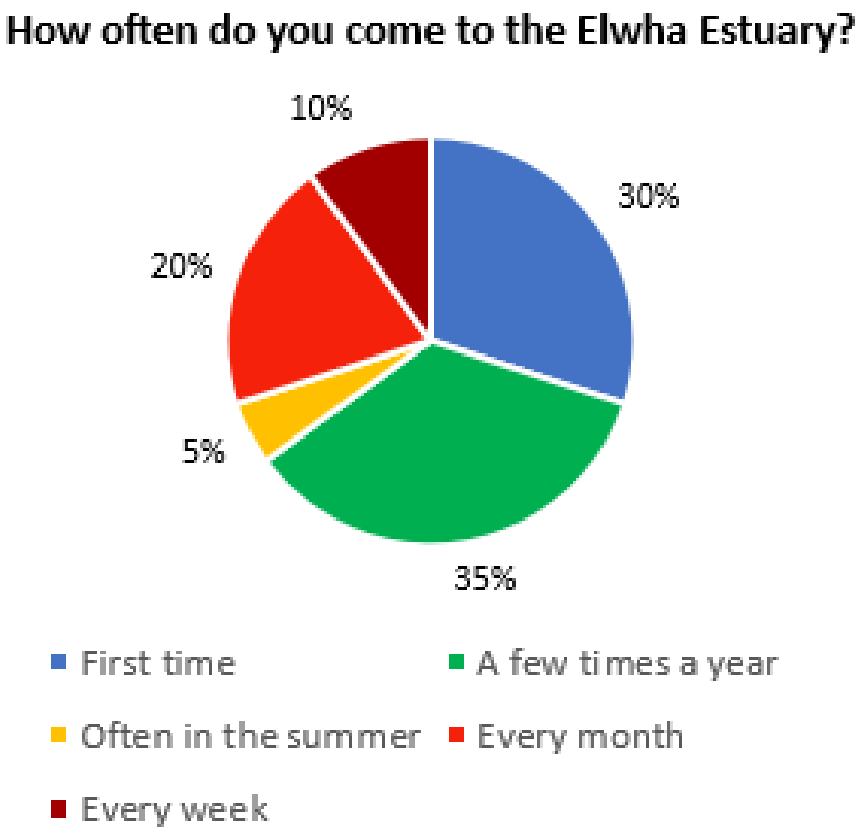
2023-24

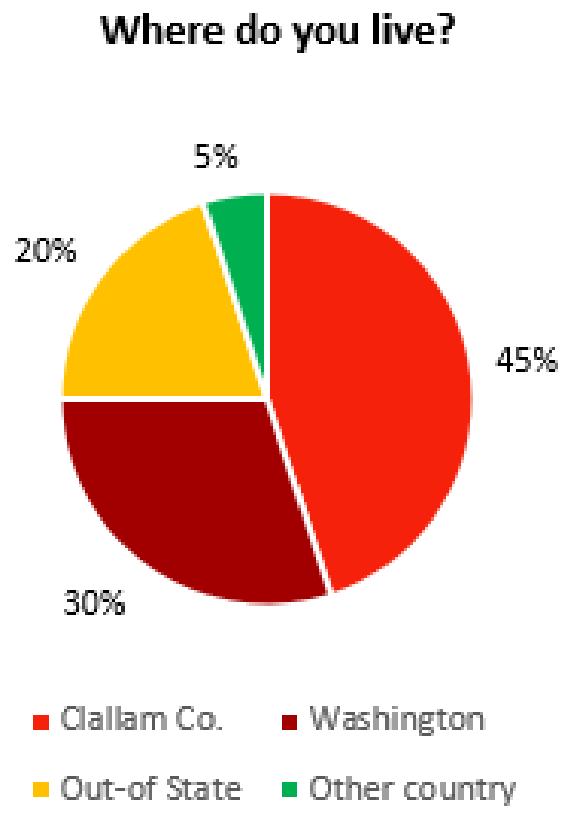


2018

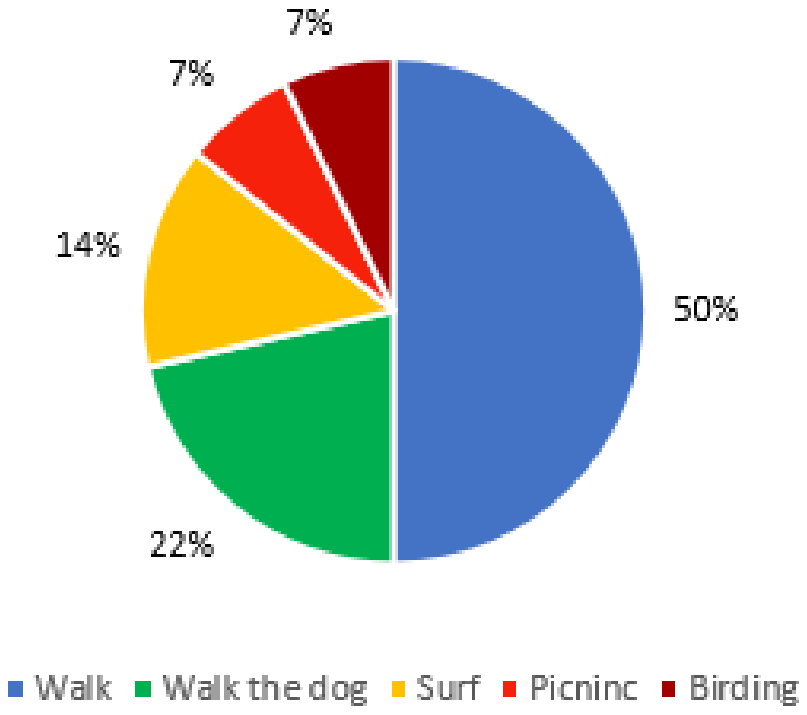


Visitor Questionnaire

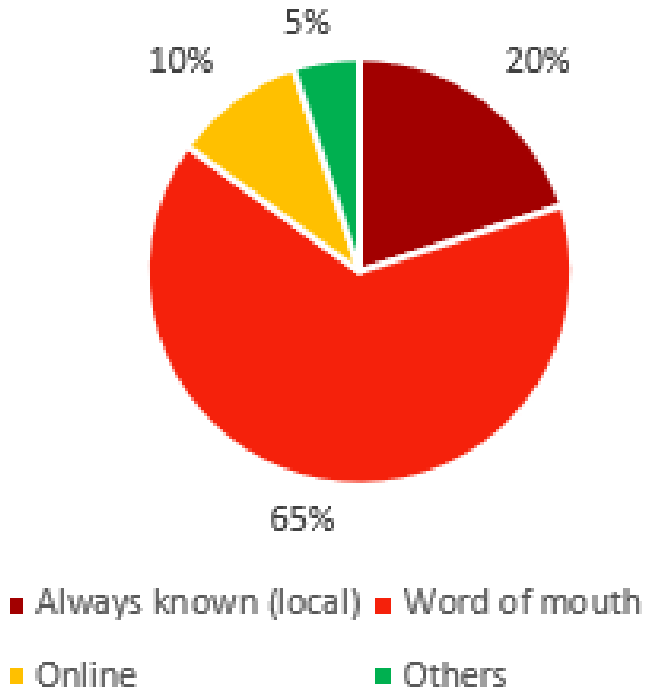




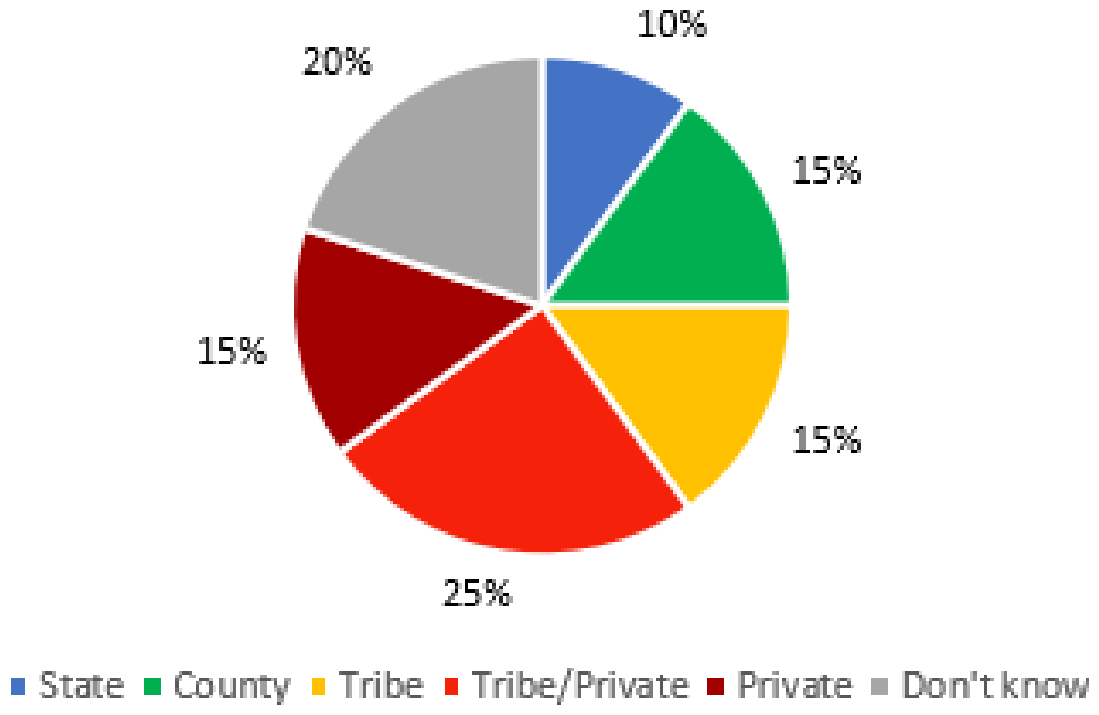
What do you usually do at the estuary?



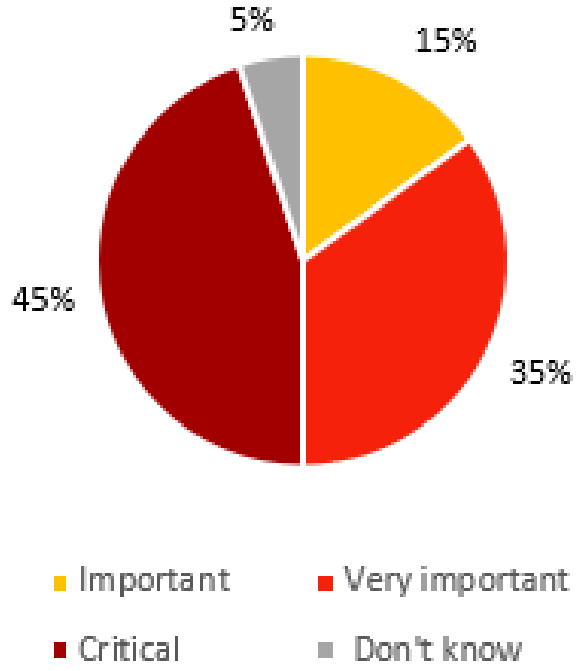
How did you hear about the Elwha Estuary?



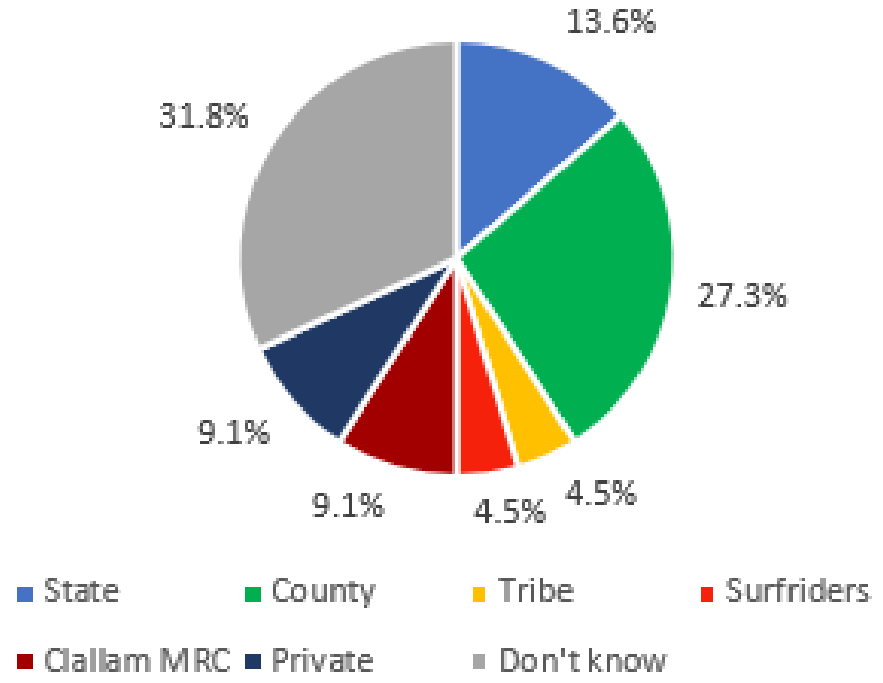
Who do you think owns the access to the estuary?

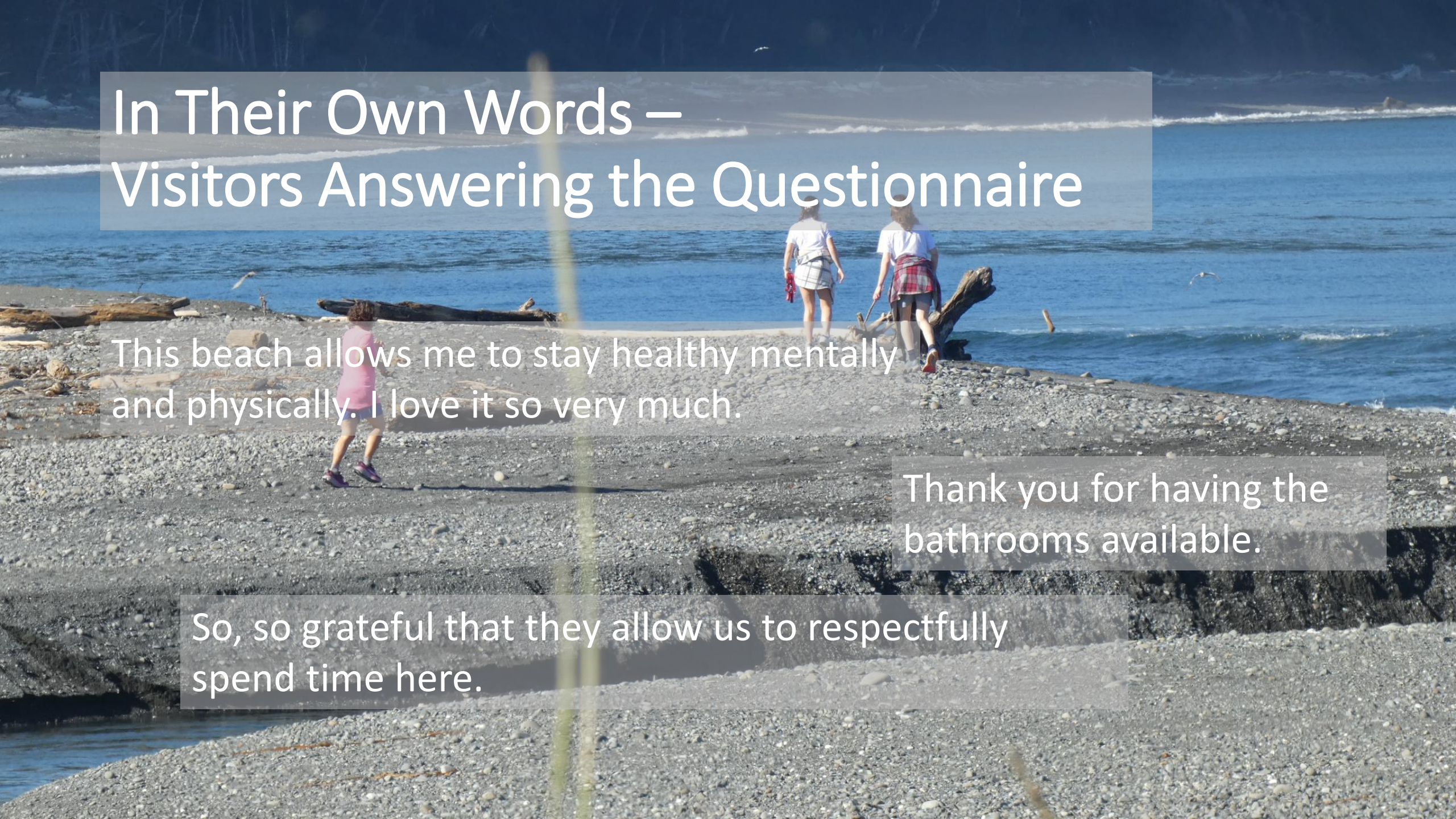


How important are the Sanikan and dog waste station on the dike?



Who do you think maintains/pay for the Sanikan and dog waste station on the dike?





In Their Own Words – Visitors Answering the Questionnaire

This beach allows me to stay healthy mentally and physically. I love it so very much.

Thank you for having the bathrooms available.

So, so grateful that they allow us to respectfully spend time here.

Elwha Beach as Outdoor Classroom

- The MRC has knowledge of five educators using the beach as an outdoor classroom:
  - Dan Liebermann, teacher at Stevens Middle School
  - NatureBridge
  - Barbara Blackie, adjunct faculty at the Peninsula College and Huxley on the Peninsulas
  - Dr. Jenise M. Bauman Associate Professor Huxley on the Peninsulas, Western Washington University
  - Ian Miller, Coastal Hazards Specialist for Washington SeaGrant

In Their Own Words

Jennifer Kidder, NatureBridge Olympic Campus Director

“Each year NatureBridge serves over 6,000 participants at our Olympic National Park campus”. “Our most popular area of study and corresponding field trip that teachers select for their classrooms of students is the Elwha River which includes a trip to the river mouth. The Elwha is one of if not our best local classrooms.”

In Their Own Words

Daniel Lieberman

“Each year as a teacher at Stevens Middle School, I take all Science 8 students on field trips to the beach and estuary. The field trips are an important part of the classes as I connect students with some of the important restoration work that occur in our area such as the restoration of the Elwha River.” “The Sanikan on the dike provides a much-needed amenity for the field trips. In addition, I see the dog waste station as an important amenity to keep the beach and estuary clean and maintain good water quality in the pond and river adjacent to the dike.”

In Their Own Words

Barbara Blackie, Faculty at the Peninsula College

“I take students on field trips to the beach and estuary. The field trips are an important part of the classes as I connect students with some of the important restoration work (and associated research) that occur in our area such as the restoration of the Elwha River.”

“I also visit this area monthly as part of the Puget Sound Seabird Survey Team. Our surveys always occur on Saturdays and it’s easy to see how useful both the dog waste station and the Sanican are to the overall hygiene and beauty of this area. Many, many dogs and people are using these important amenities, reducing dog waste on the beach, especially. It DOES improve water quality to have waste processed correctly. Please continue to support this important and valuable service to our community beaches.”

In Their Own Words

Ian Miller, Washington SeaGrant Coastal Hazards Specialist

"……it is readily apparent that the beach at the Elwha is heavily used, use is increasing over time, and the Sanikan and dog waste station provides the only convenient access to waste disposal services in the area. Without these services I have no doubt that beach users would make use of the natural areas around the beach and estuary to go the bathroom, with the expected impacts to water quality, aesthetics and human health."

In Summary

- More than 50,400 people and 9,700 dogs visit the beach in 2023-24
- Hundreds of K-12 students and many college students use the area as an outdoor classroom
- Main activities at the beach are walking, walking the dog and surfing
- 45% of visitors live in Clallam County; 20% of the visitors comes from out-of-state
- The number of visitors in 2018 was similar to the number of visitors in 2023-24

In Summary

- 95% of visitors thought the Sanikan and dog waste station at the trailhead was important with 45% saying it is critical
- Between September 2023 – August 2024 a total of 5,200 dogi bags were distributed at the trailhead

2023-2025 Project Budget

- $3,200 annually – total $6,400
  - Bill Plumbing's Sanikan service every 7 days
  - 5,200 dogi bags annually

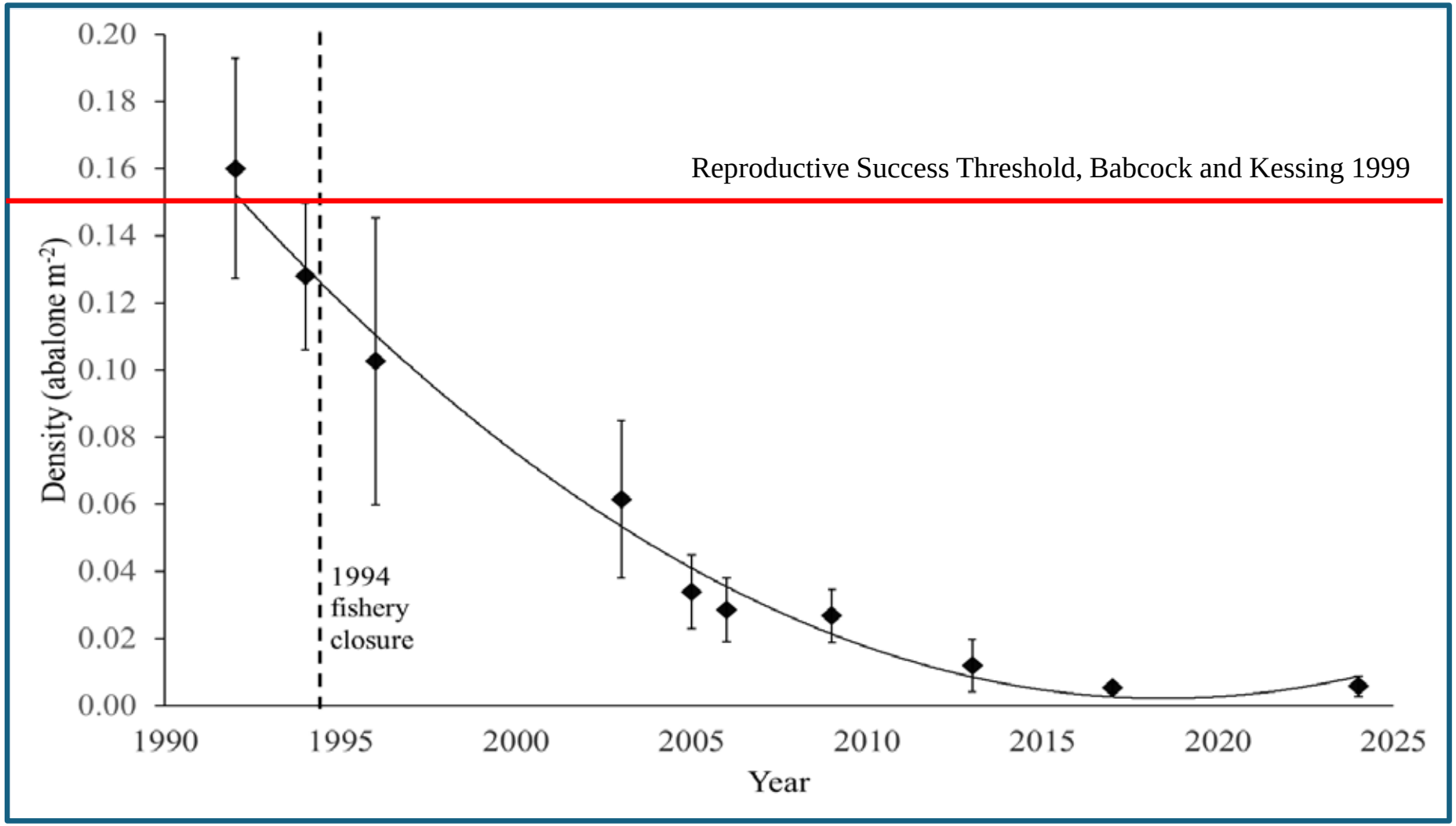
NWSC 2025-27 Grant

- During the project discussion in 2023 at the MRC retreat a couple of questions were raised:
  - Should the MRC look for partners to share the cost of this project?
  - If yes, who should the MRC contact? Surfriders? Or other organizations? The County?
- Decision – does the MRC wish to continue the stewardship at Elwha River? And if yes, should we look for a cost sharing partner?


Questions

Pinto Abalone Restoration Proposal: 2026-2027

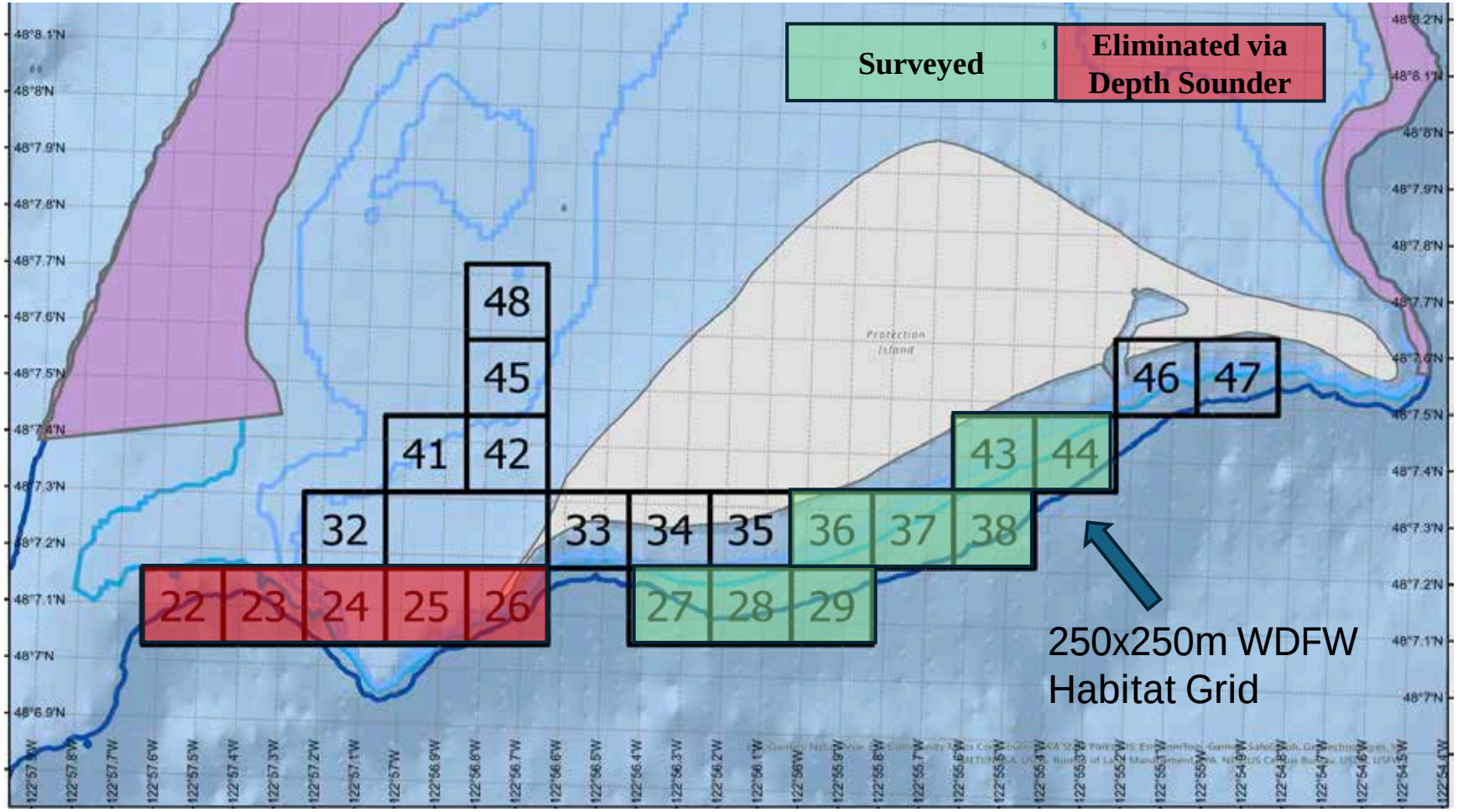
Mean Abalone Density at San Juan Island Index Stations



Periodic Status Review for Pinto Abalone, WDFW December 2024

2024 Protection Island and Miller Peninsula Survey Areas

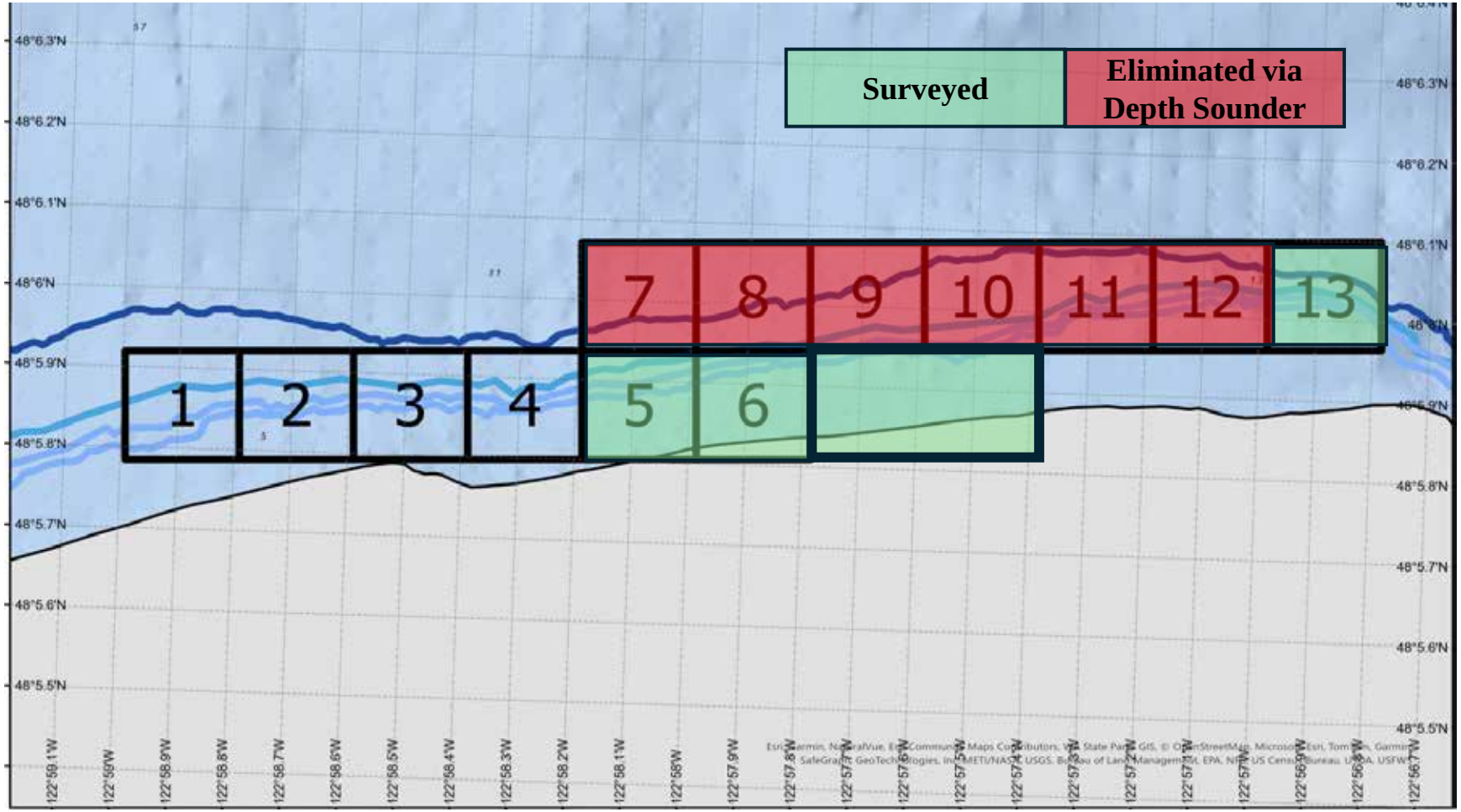
Protection Island Survey Results



No Abalone Observed

Sand/Gravel Substrate Not Suitable for Abalone

Rocky Point Survey Results

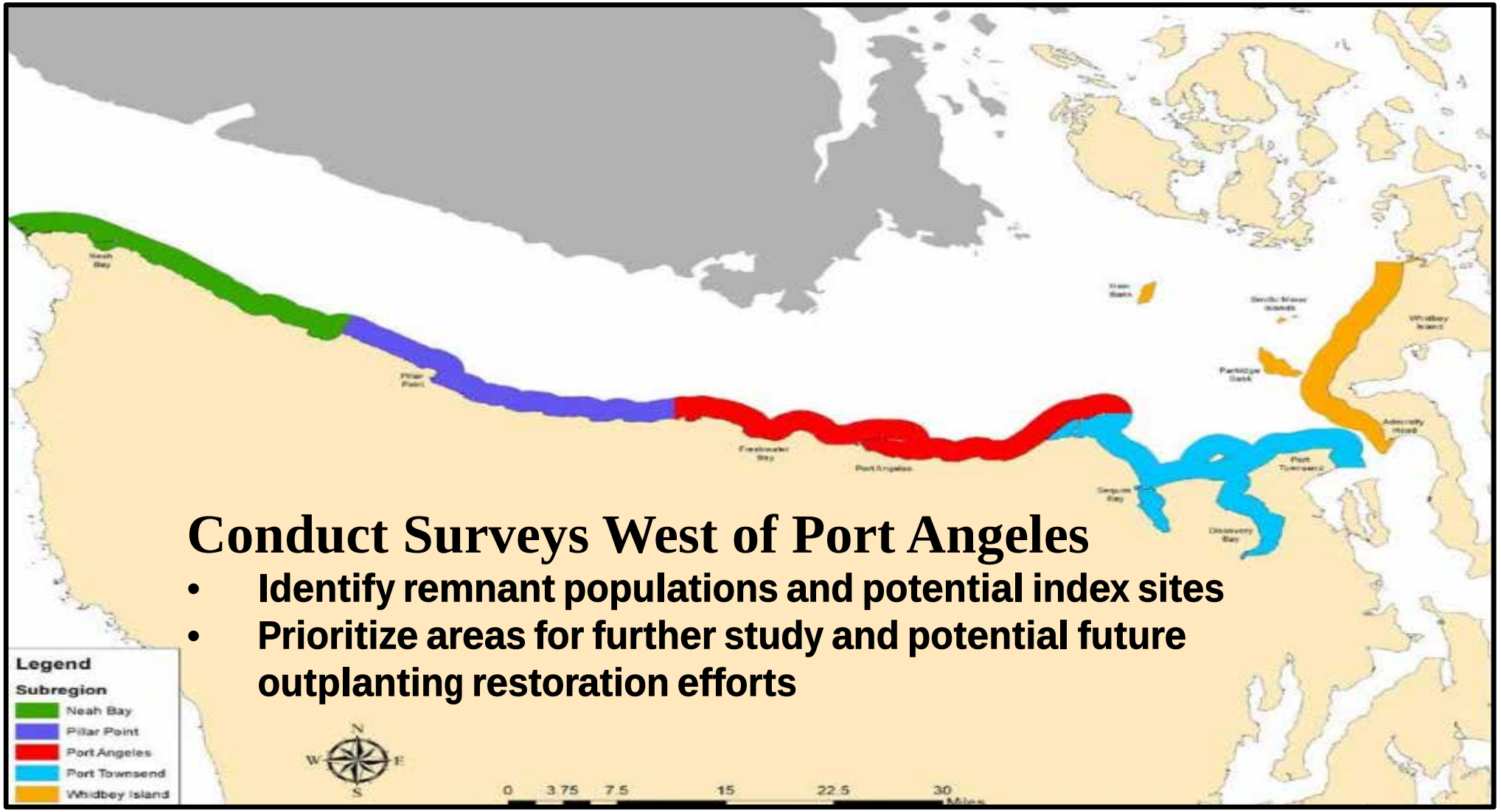


No Abalone Observed

Potential Area for Broodstock Collection

Habitats Encountered During Surveys

Proposed Activities for 2026-2027



Conduct Surveys West of Port Angeles

- **Identify remnant populations and potential index sites**
- **Prioritize areas for further study and potential future outplanting restoration efforts**