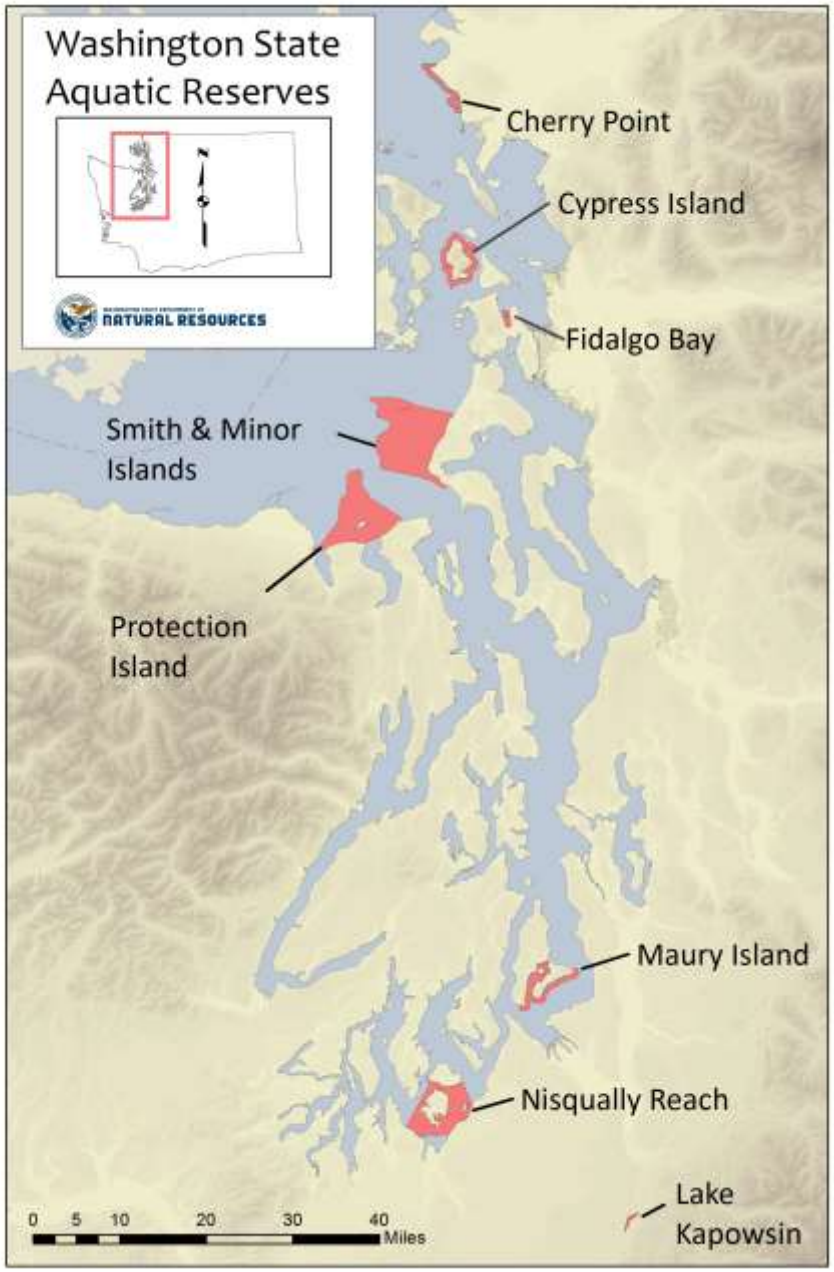
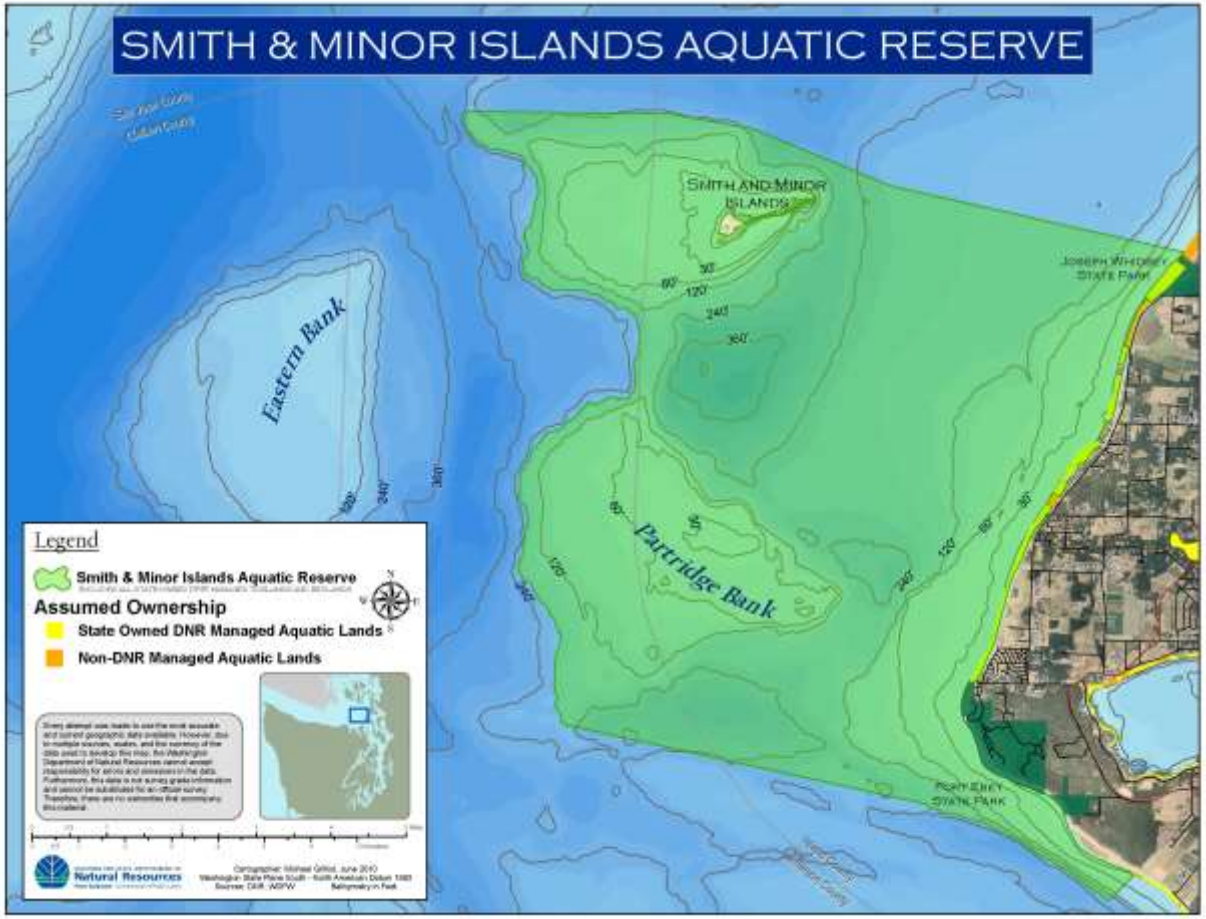
Citizen Science and Outreach: Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve


Washington State Aquatic Reserves
Cherry Point
Cypress Island
Fidalgo Bay
Smith & Minor Islands
Protection Island
Maury Island
Nisqually Reach
Lake Kapowsin
0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles

A Network of Support



Washington Conservation Corps

Whidbey Watershed Stewards

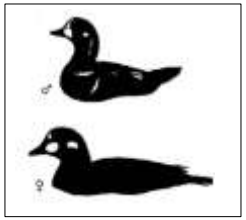
Island County Marine Resources Committee

Thank you Island County MRC!

Evolving Kiosk Content

Birds of the Reserve

Words: Steve Ellis
Photos: Martha Ellis
Silhouettes: allaboutbirds.org



Harlequin Duck

Rushing streams and pounding waves are the twin habitats for these dapper little ducks.

Named after the multi-hued costumed characters of French pantomime, the males sport a plumage of slate blue with white markings and chestnut sides. Females are dusky, with three spots on the rounded head.

Harlequins dive underwater, using their stubby bills to catch snails, crabs, and other invertebrates just off our rocky shorelines.

These hardy ducks are present in the Reserve until late April, when most migrate inland to the streams and rivers of the North Cascade and Olympic mountain ranges. Here the female lays 6-8 eggs in a hollow under a shrub, 60 to 90 feet from the river's edge. Males return to saltwater by early July. Females and young arrive here in September.

The local population of Harlequins has risen after a steep decline. Smith and Minor Island Aquatic Reserve is an important wintering area for this intriguing species.

Welcome Sign: Coming Soon!

Conservation Targets for Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve

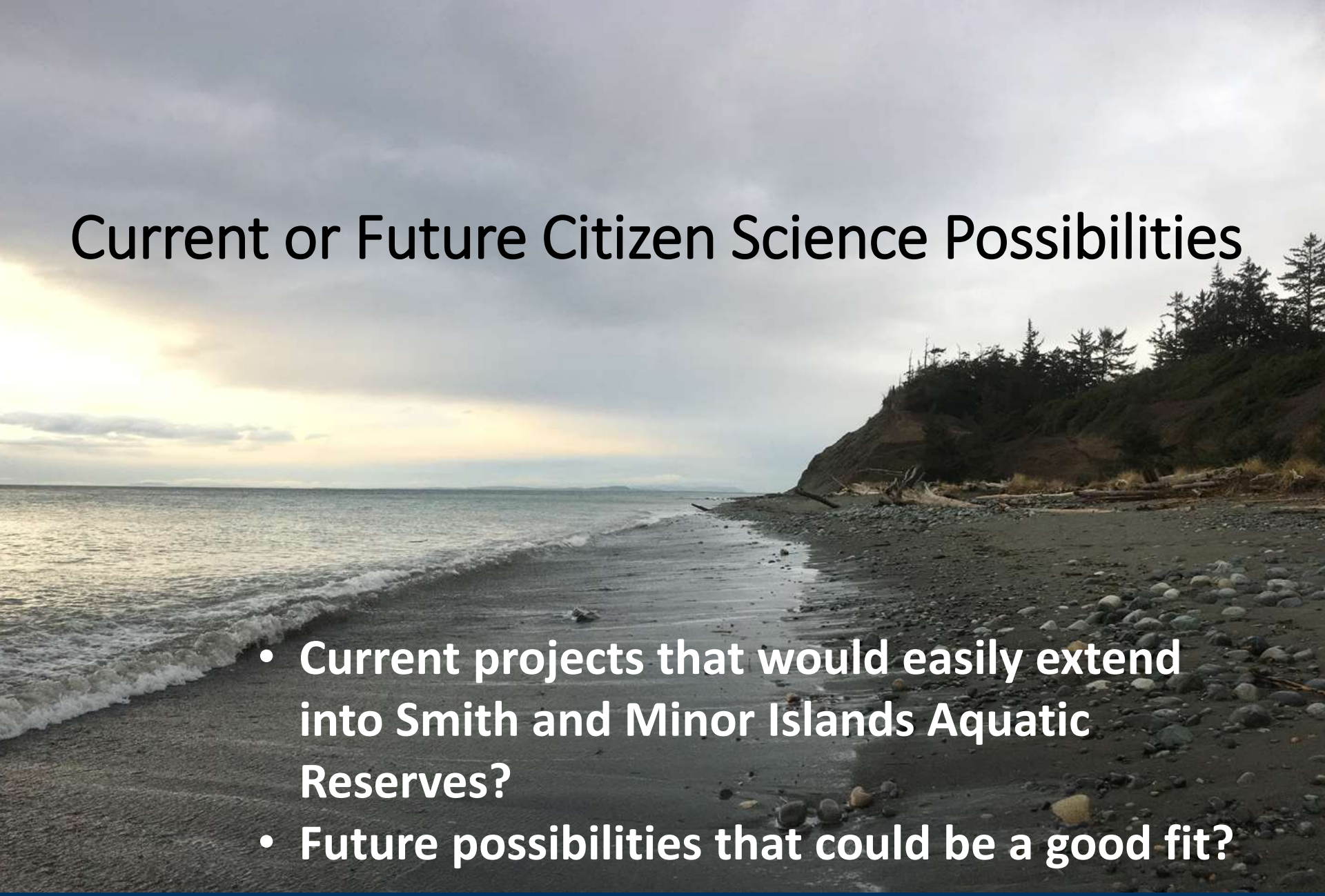
- Unique Ecosystem Characteristics
- Aquatic Vegetation and Habitat
- Bird Populations
- Marine Mammal Populations
- Fish Populations

Management Goals and Objectives for Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve

- Preserve, restore, and enhance nearshore and subtidal ecosystems
- Monitor sensitive habitats, species, and processes
- Provide opportunities for education and interpretation
- Ensure connectivity across Aquatic Reserves

Citizen Science & Monitoring

Current or Future Citizen Science Possibilities



- **Current projects that would easily extend into Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserves?**
- **Future possibilities that could be a good fit?**

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