

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

December 3, 2024

ONLINE MEETING

PRESENT: Jill Lipoti, Chair, Kelly Webb, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Barbara Bennett, Kes Tautvydas, Ken Collins, Andi Kopit, Greg Easton, Kirk Larsen, Patrick Havel, Jeff Wheeler, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff

ABSENT: Note if notified or un-notified – Melanie Bacon, un-notified, Jennifer Schmitz, notified

VISITORS: James Watson, WICD, Paul Williams, Public, Valerie dos Santos, Shore Friendly, Josh Berkowitz, Public

CALL TO ORDER: Jill called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** N/A

TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES:

- Jill Lipoti has been attending the NW Straits DEI Cohort weekly.

BULL KELP FINAL REPORT: Carter Webb

- The MRC currently monitors 5 sites in Island County.
- There was around 170 acres monitored this year.
- (See presentation included at the end of the minutes.)

SHORE FRIENDLY PROGRAM OVERVIEW: Valerie dos Santos

- The goal of Shore Friendly is to cut down on shoreline armoring and to protect shoreline habitats throughout the sound.
- About 25% of the Puget Sound shoreline is already armored.
- Shore Friendly offers free technical site visits and reports.
- (See presentation included at the end of the minutes)

FORAGE FISH FINAL REPORT: Kirk Larsen

- The MRC currently has 7 sites being surveyed for forage fish eggs. The newest site can be found in Port Susan at Cavalero Beach.
- (See presentation included at the end of the minutes)

SMP UPDATE: Barbara Bennett

- In considering policy in process, Barbara pointed out that the WA Dept of Ecology is currently conducting a rule-making review of the Shoreline Management Act. This

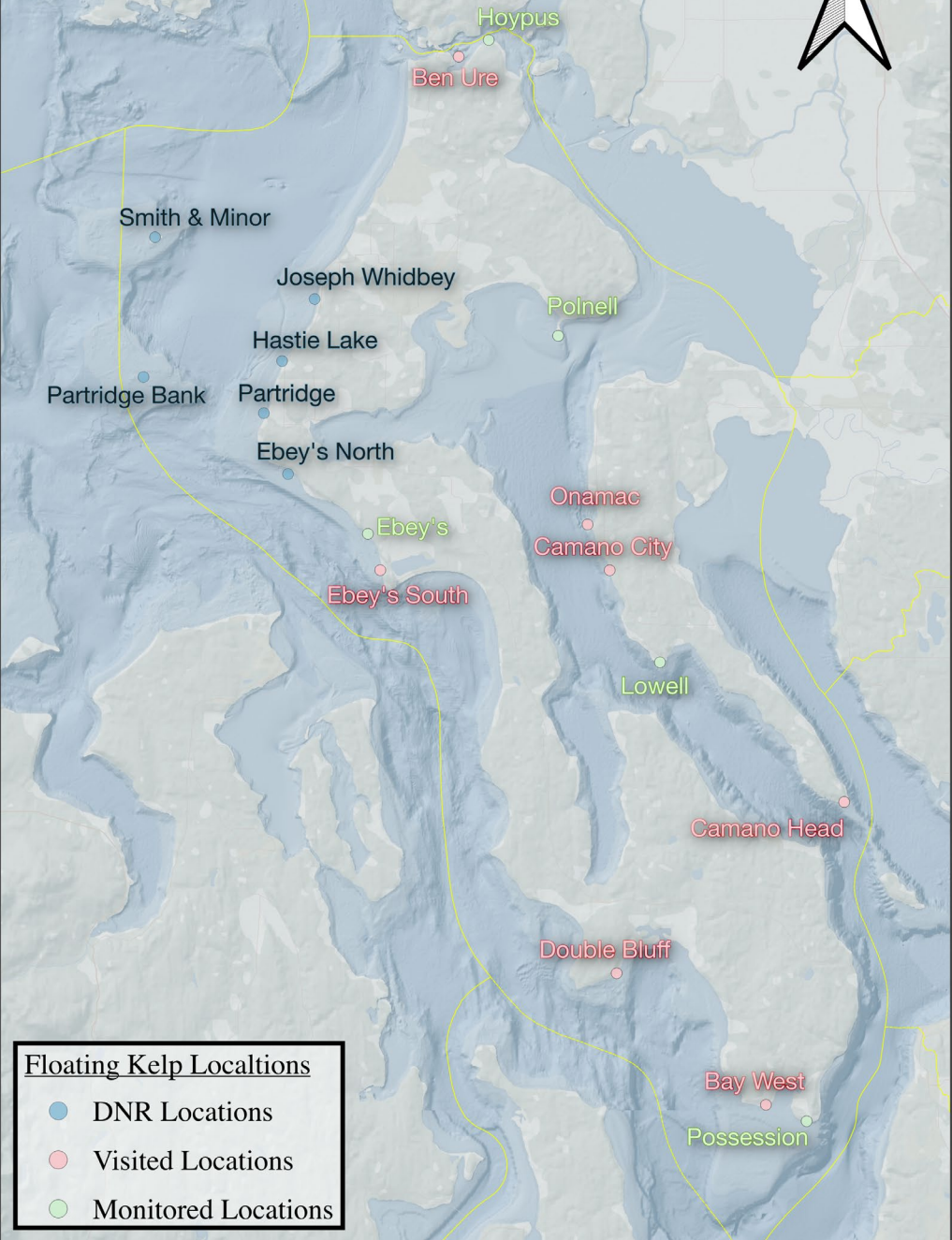
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process presents an opportunity to raise the issue of conflict between privately owned shoreline properties and SMP initiatives when they overlap each other. After some discussion the MRC informally agreed that a comment on this topic would be appropriate.

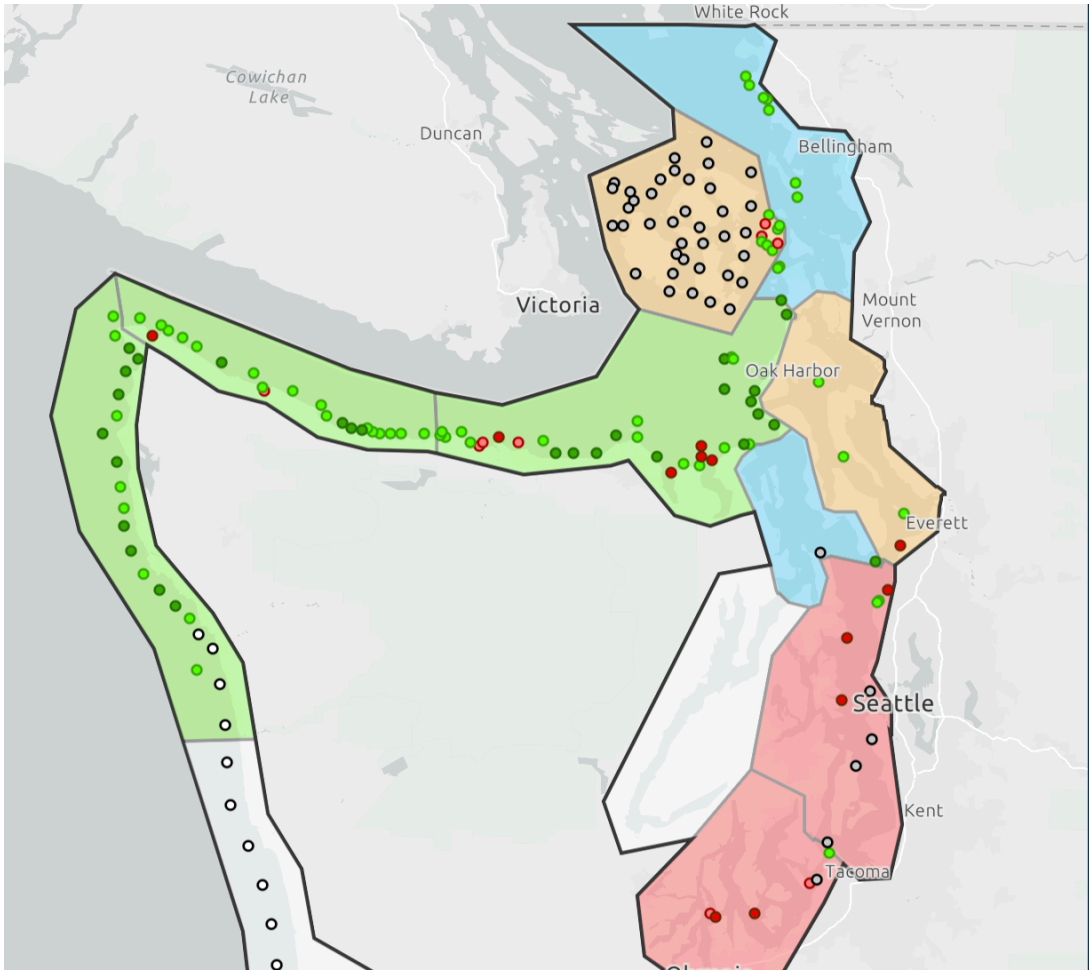
Meeting Adjourned 6:02 pm

Island County Floating Kelp Locations 2024



Floating Kelp Localtions

- DNR Locations
- Visited Locations
- Monitored Locations



Legend



Long-term trend at locations

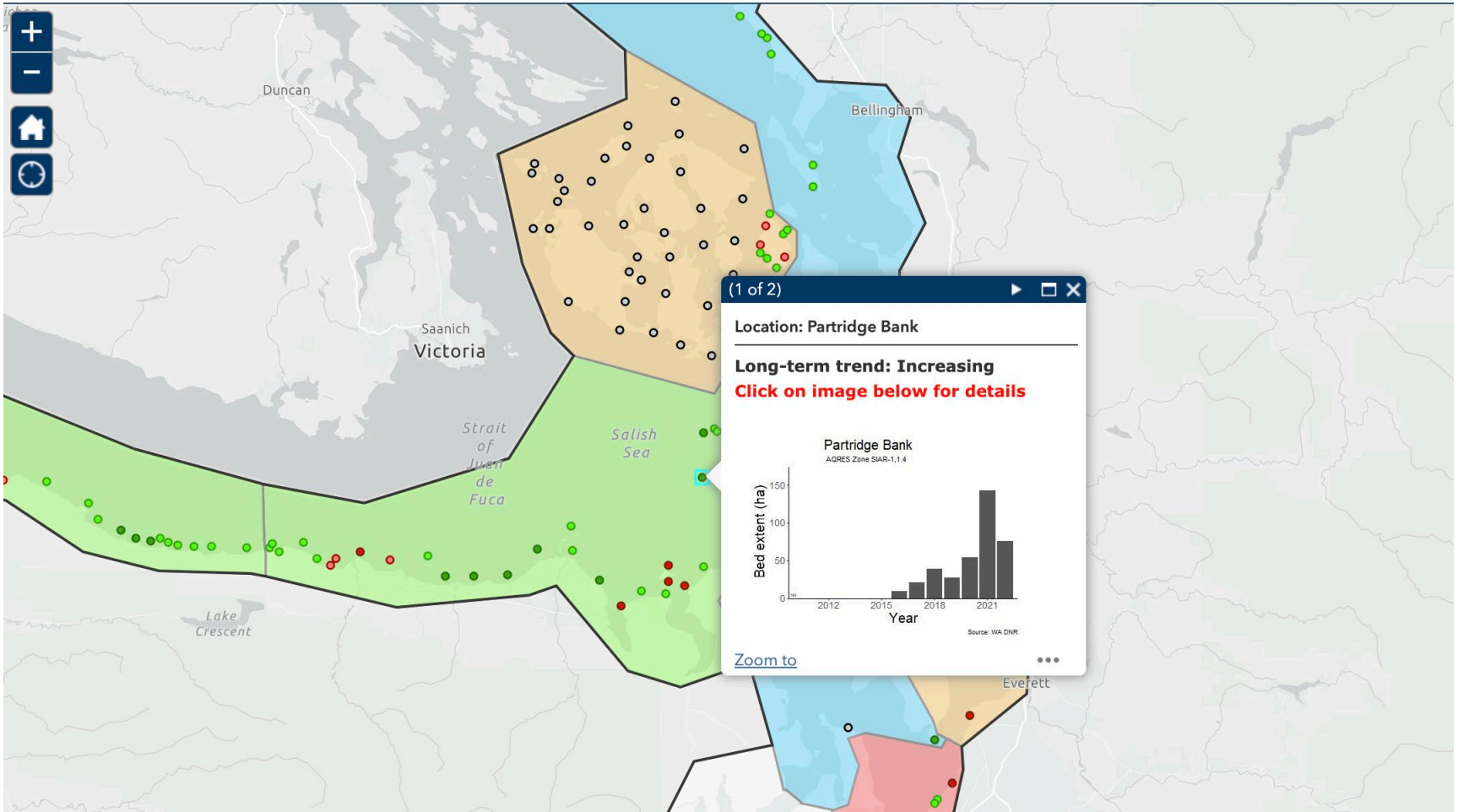
- Increasing
- No Trend
- Decreasing
- Total Loss
- Limited Data
- No Floating Kelp

Sub-basin status

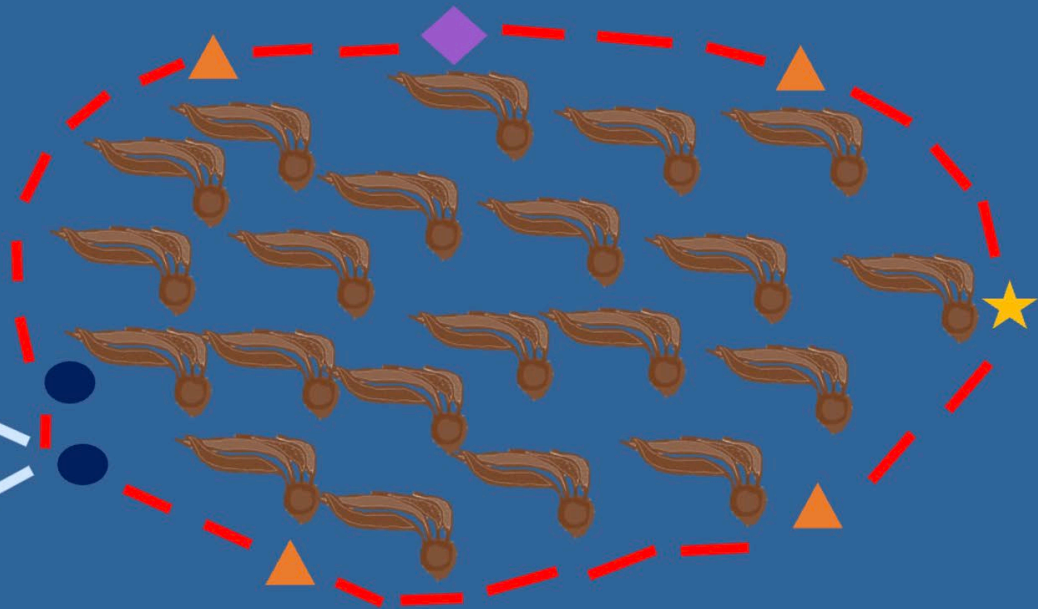
- Stable
- Concern of Decline
- Declines (substantial documented)
- Insufficient Data
- No floating kelp

Study Area





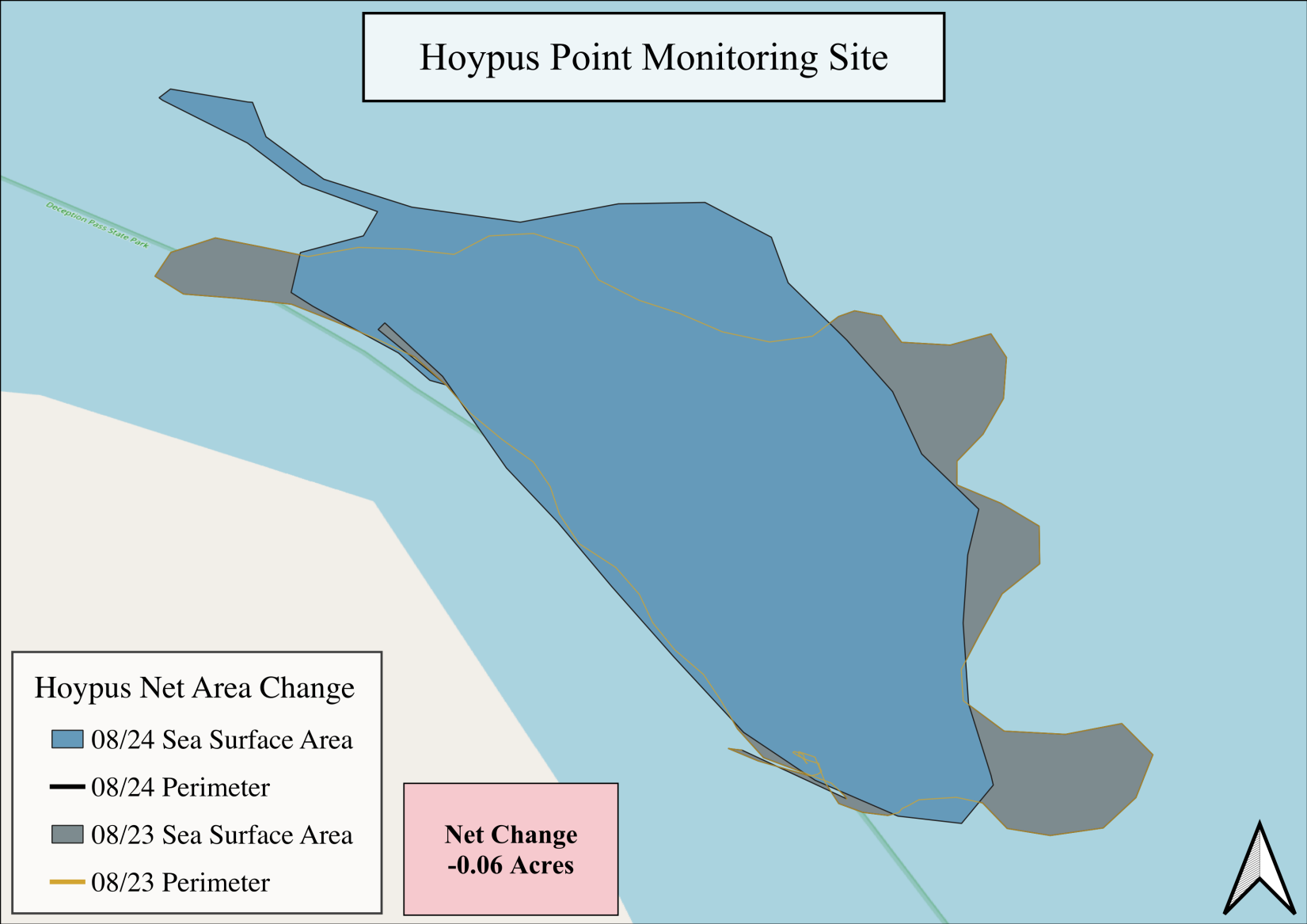
End perimeter,
take a waypoint



- ★ Survey endpoint
- Perimeter start/stop
- ▲ Depth/Temp
- ◆ Photo point

Beach

Hoypus Point Monitoring Site



Hoypus Net Area Change

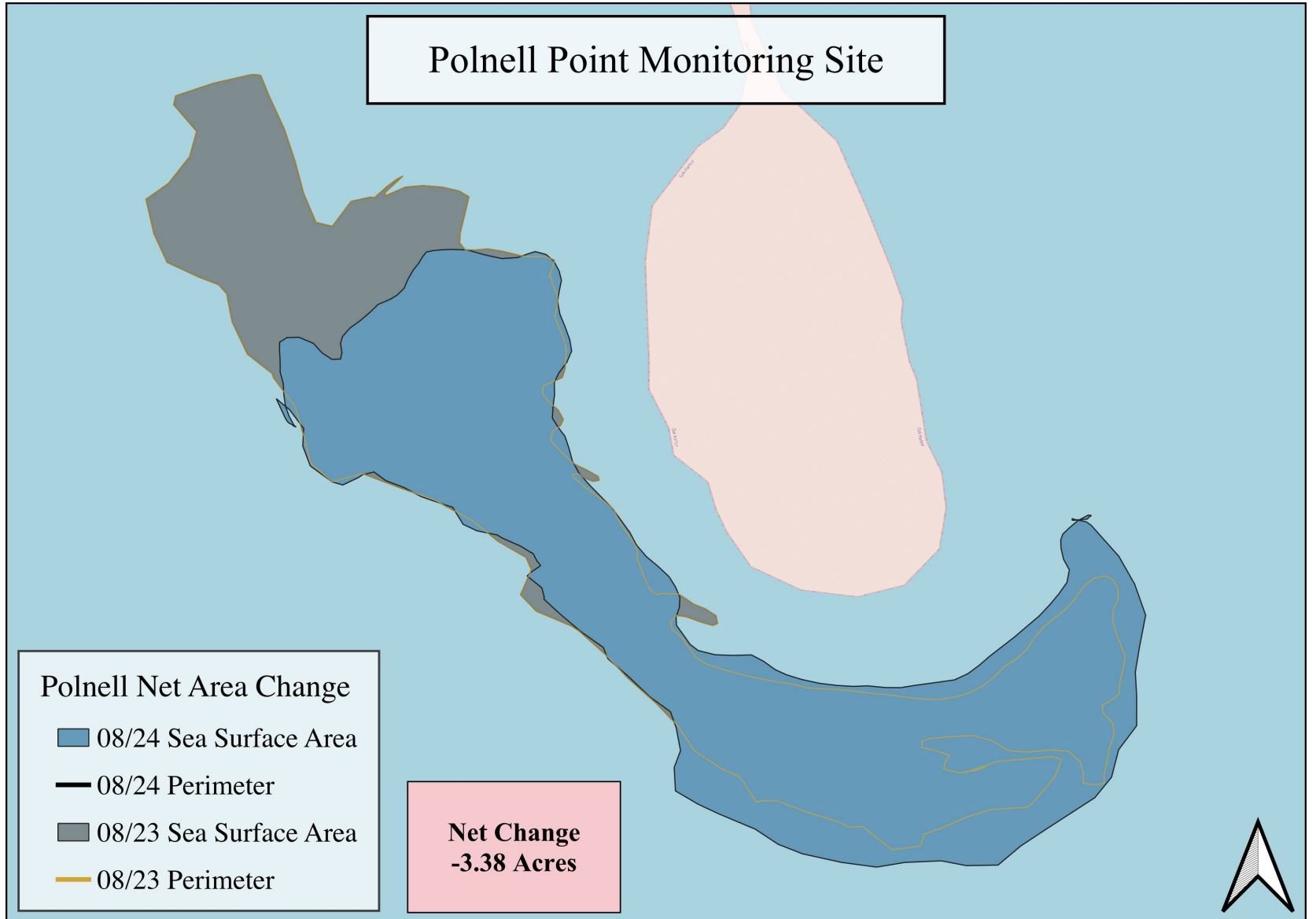
- 08/24 Sea Surface Area
- 08/24 Perimeter
- 08/23 Sea Surface Area
- 08/23 Perimeter

Polnell Point Monitoring Site

Polnell Net Area Change

- 08/24 Sea Surface Area
- 08/24 Perimeter
- 08/23 Sea Surface Area
- 08/23 Perimeter

**Net Change
-3.38 Acres**

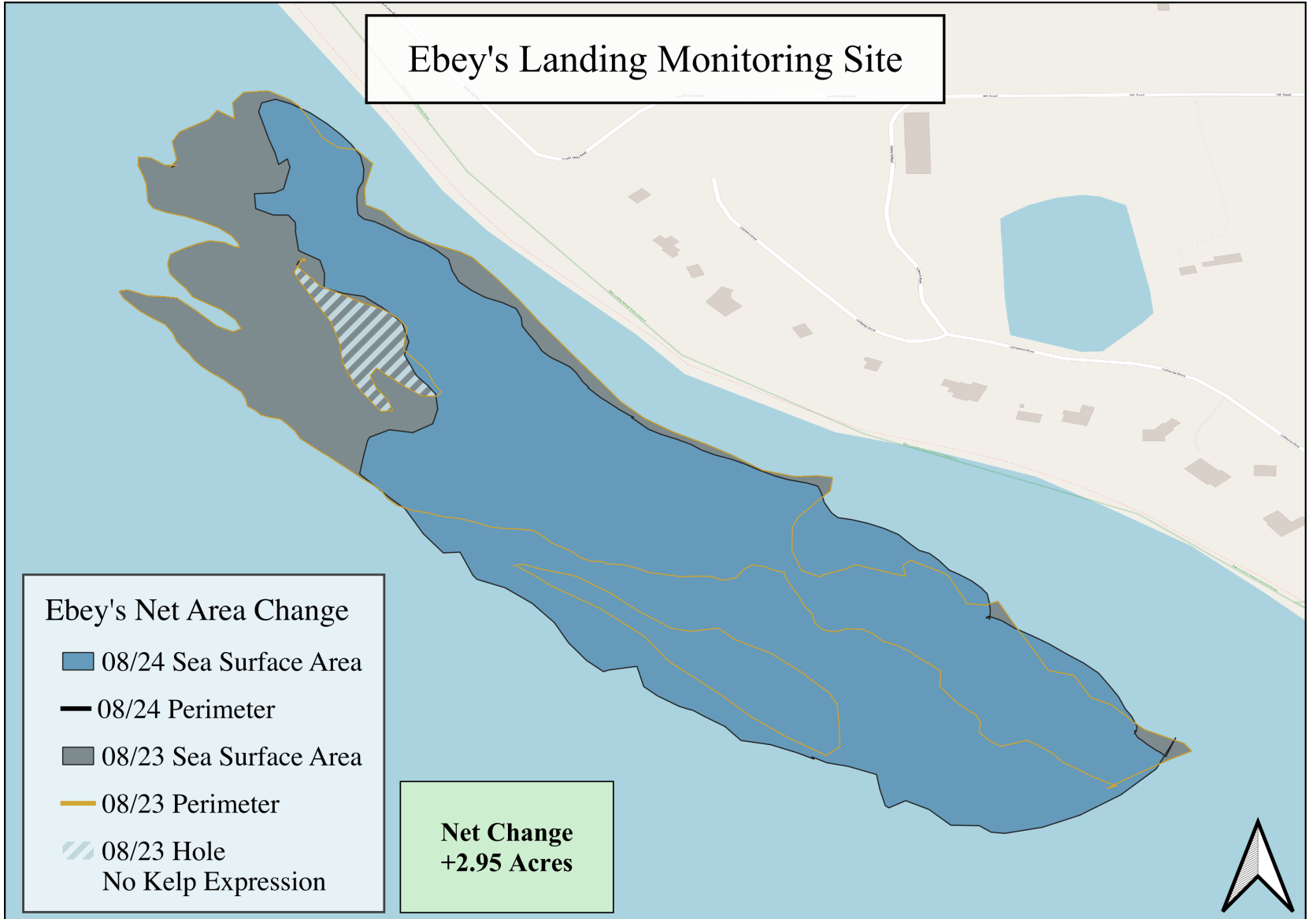


Ebey's Landing Monitoring Site

Ebey's Net Area Change

- 08/24 Sea Surface Area
- 08/24 Perimeter
- 08/23 Sea Surface Area
- 08/23 Perimeter
- 08/23 Hole
No Kelp Expression

**Net Change
+2.95 Acres**

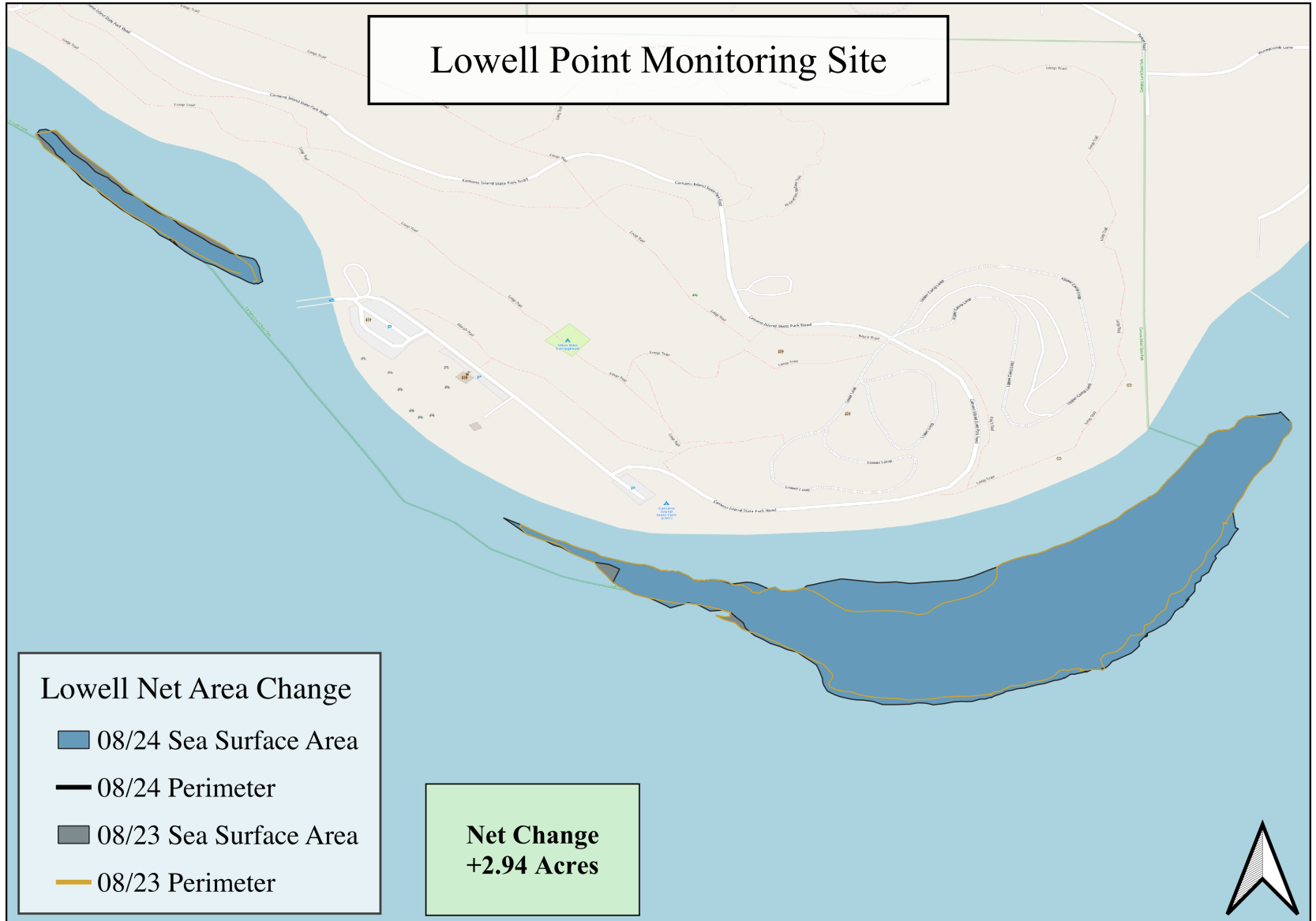


Lowell Point Monitoring Site

Lowell Net Area Change

- 08/24 Sea Surface Area
- 08/24 Perimeter
- 08/23 Sea Surface Area
- 08/23 Perimeter

**Net Change
+2.94 Acres**

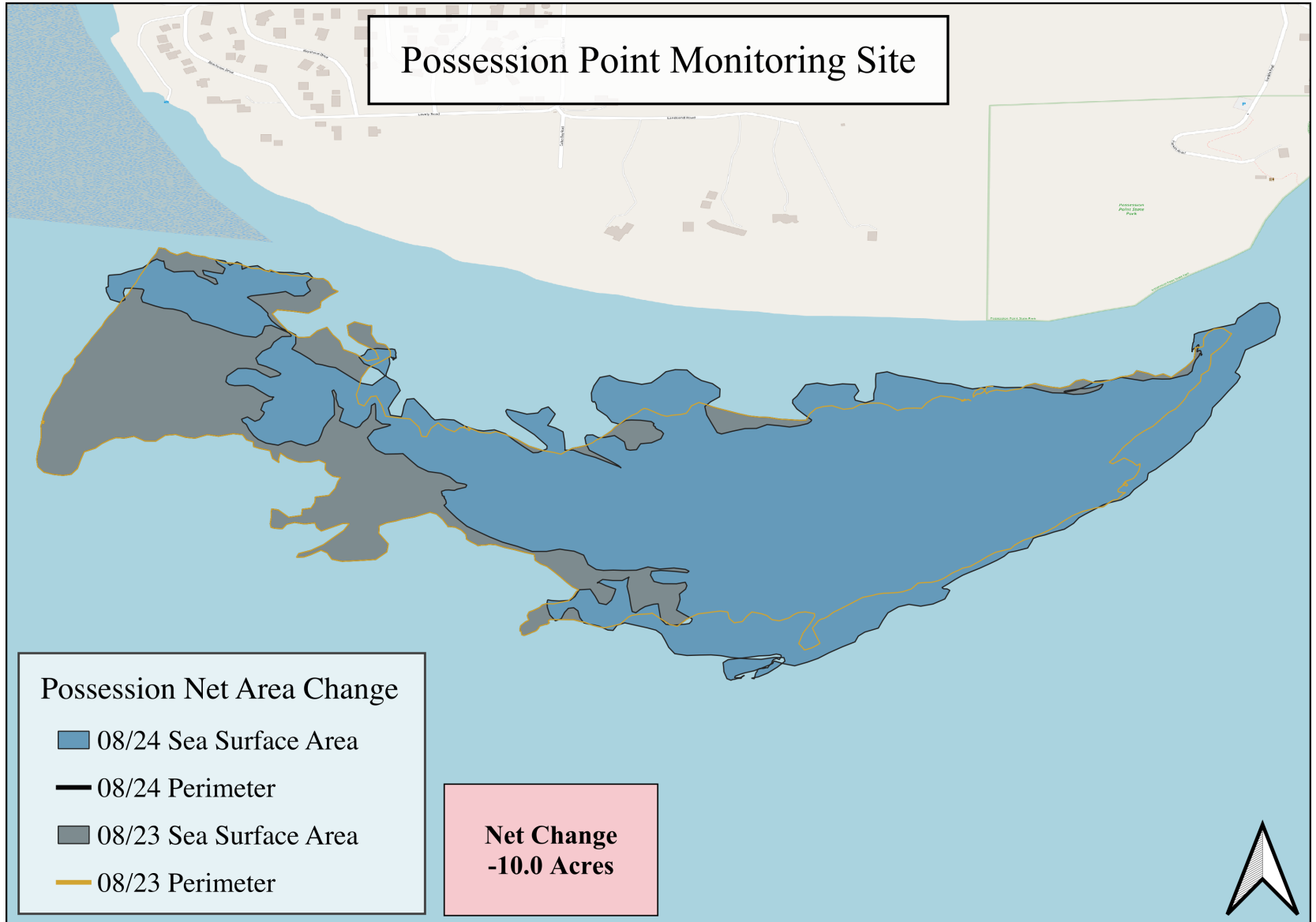


Possession Point Monitoring Site

Possession Net Area Change

- 08/24 Sea Surface Area
- 08/24 Perimeter
- 08/23 Sea Surface Area
- 08/23 Perimeter

**Net Change
-10.0 Acres**



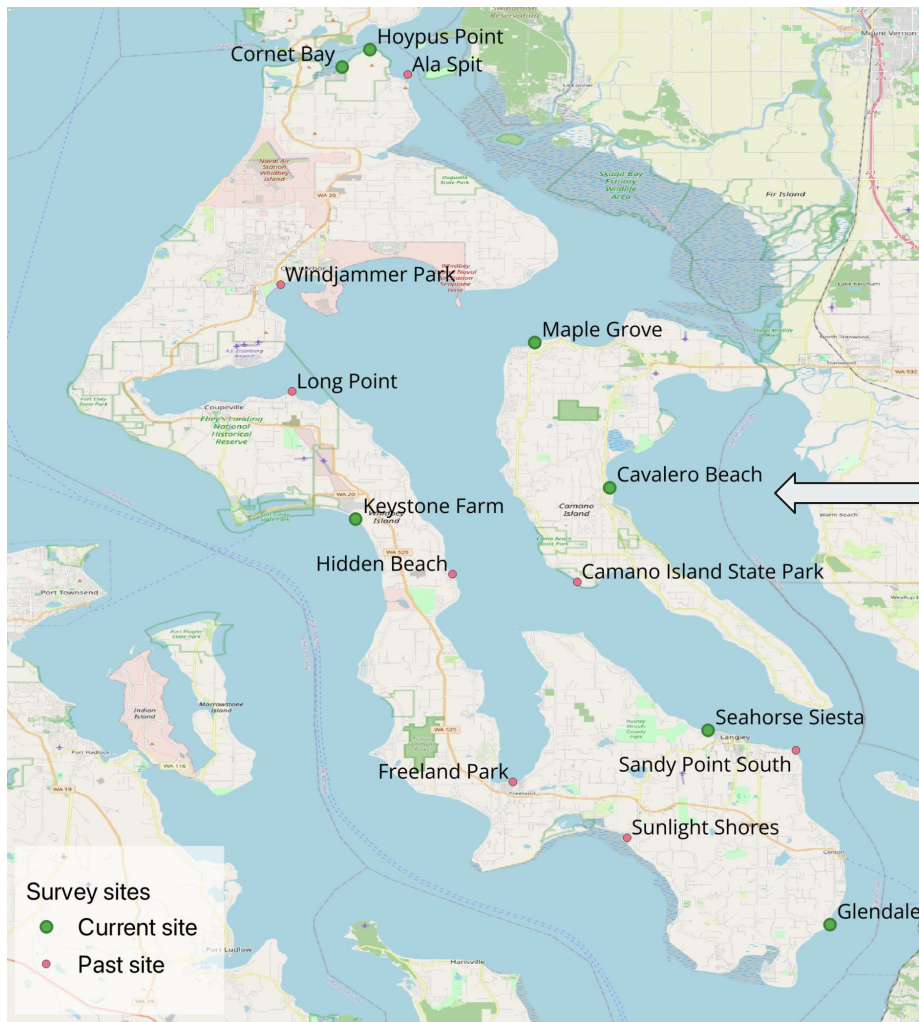
Site	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hoypus Point		4.0	3.6				2.1	4.0	3.5	3.4
Ebey's Landing	19.8	20.4	22.7	21.3	40.8	40.1	38.0	39.3	29.9	33.7
Polnell Point		35.8	27.4	74.1	47.3	41.0	36.4	17.0	38.7	34.9
Possession Point			21.5	36.6	64.8	50.3	66.7	81.4	85.2	75.2
Lowell Point		18.0	13.7			6.3	23.1	9.0	19.5	22.5
Totals	19.8	78.2	88.9	132.0	152.9	137.7	166.3	150.6	176.8	169.8
	18	Sampled in Year and Max Sea Surface Expression (acres)								
	88.9	Sea Surface Expression When All Beds are Sample in Year (acres)								



Island County MRC



2024 Forage Fish Spawning Survey Update



Current "productive" sites

- Hoypus Point
- Maple Grove
- Seahorse Siesta

Past "productive" sites

- Camano Island State Park
- Long Point

Maybe?

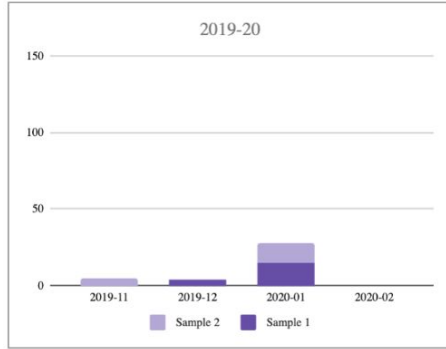
- Hidden Beach
- Ala Spit

New in December!

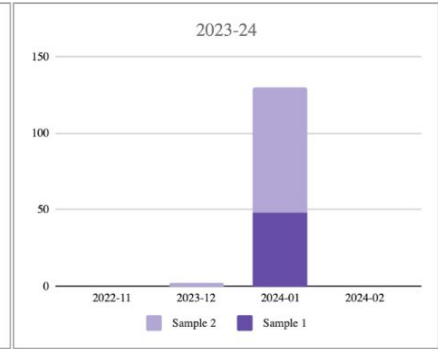
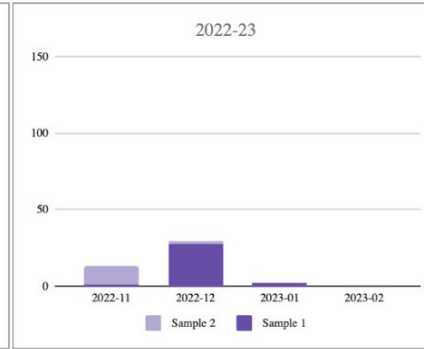
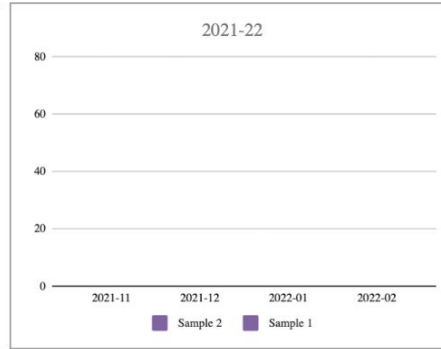


Seahorse Siesta sand lance spawning surveys: 2019 – 2024

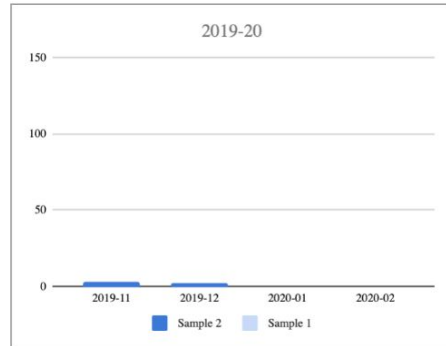
Station 1



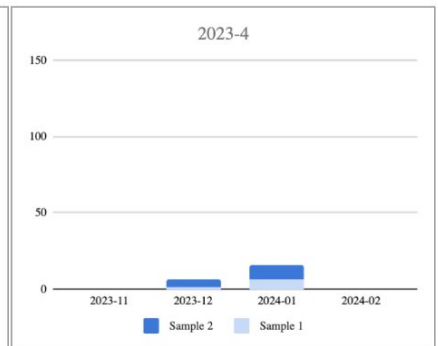
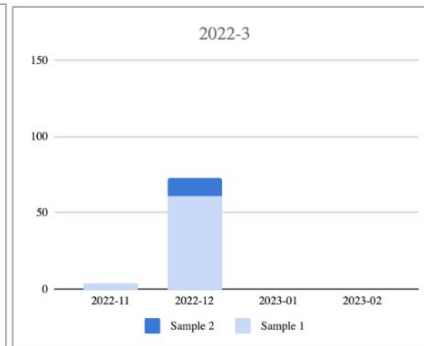
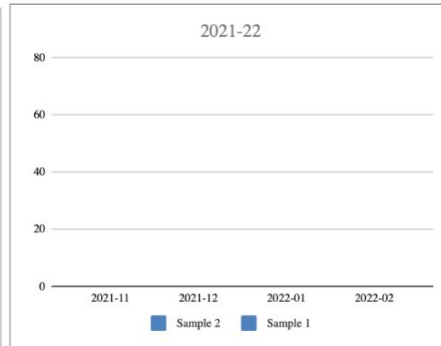
barge removal
no data for winter 2020-21



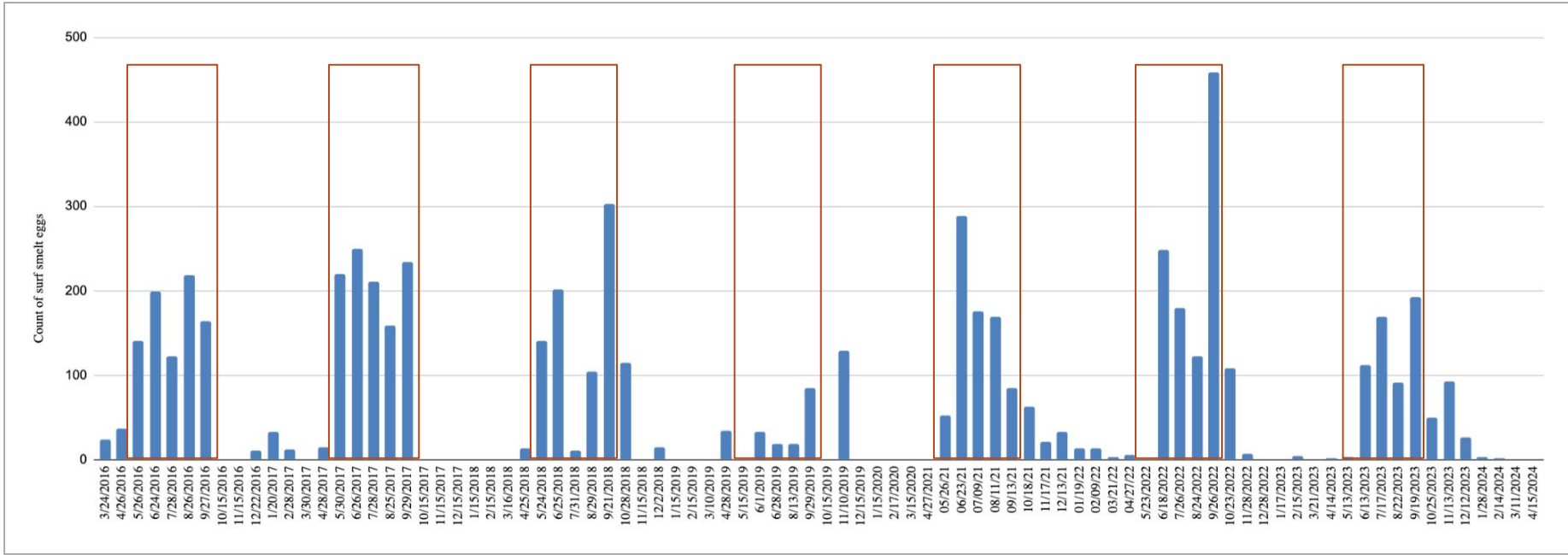
Station 2



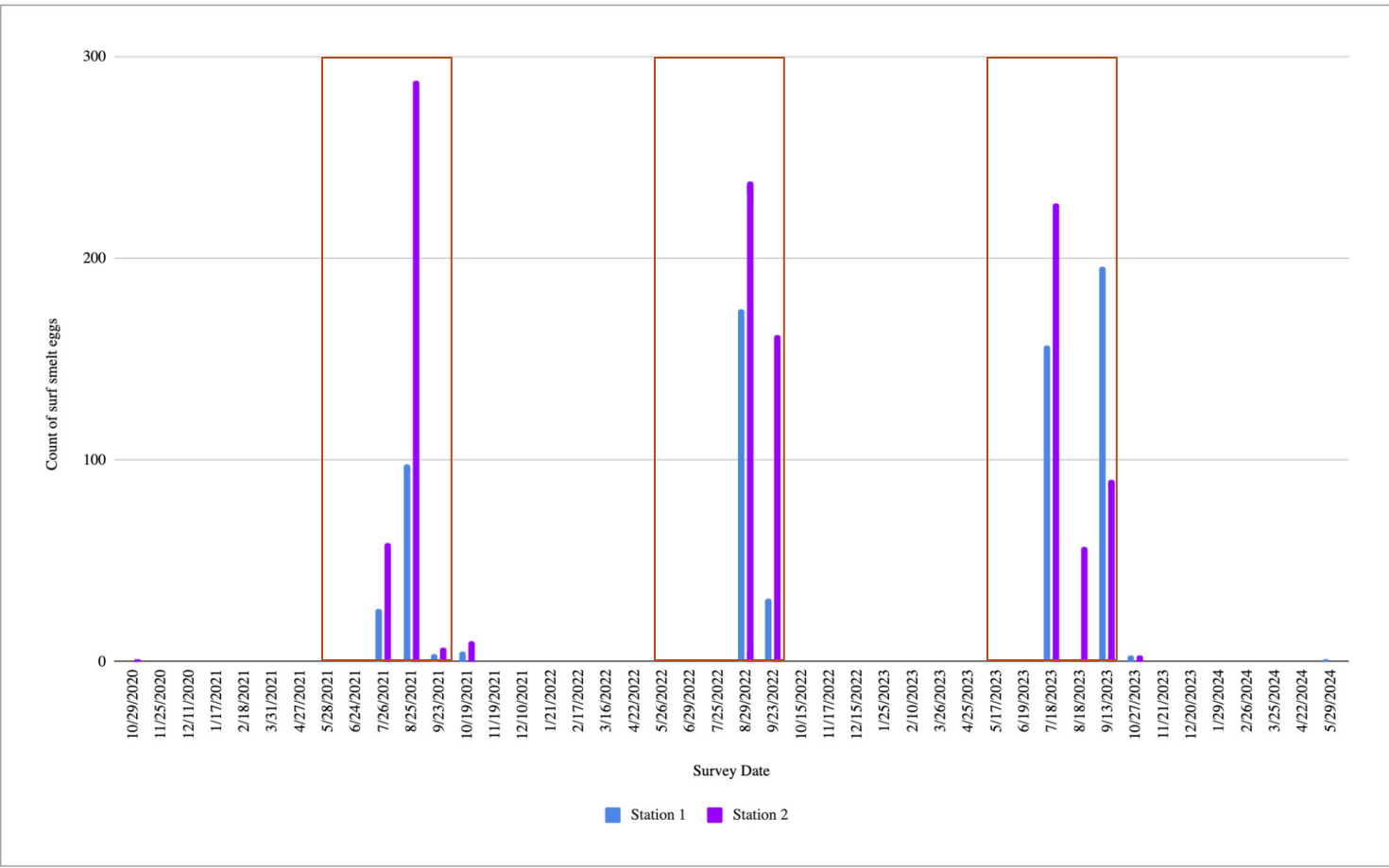
barge removal
no data for winter 2020-21



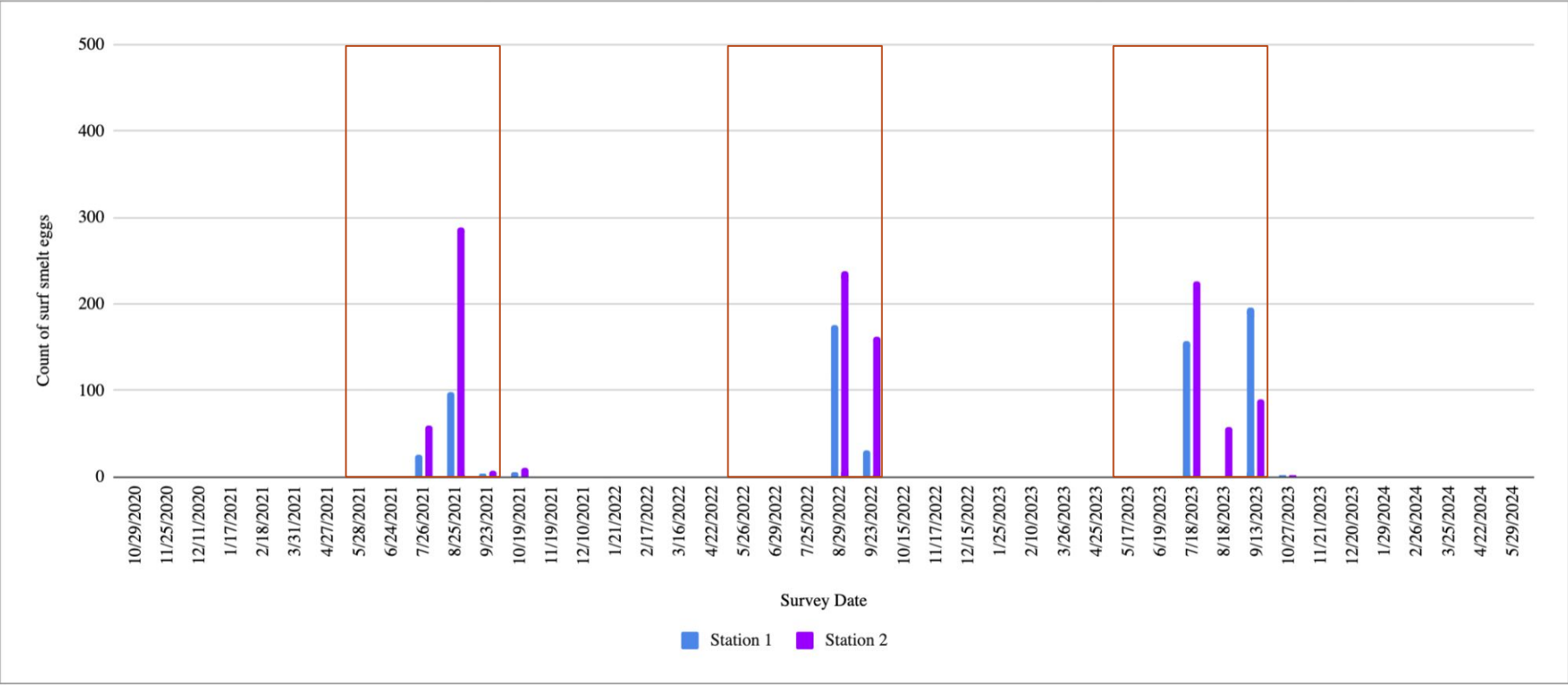
Maple Grove surf smelt spawning surveys: March 2016 – April 2024



Hoypus Point surf smelt spawning surveys: October 2020 – May 2024



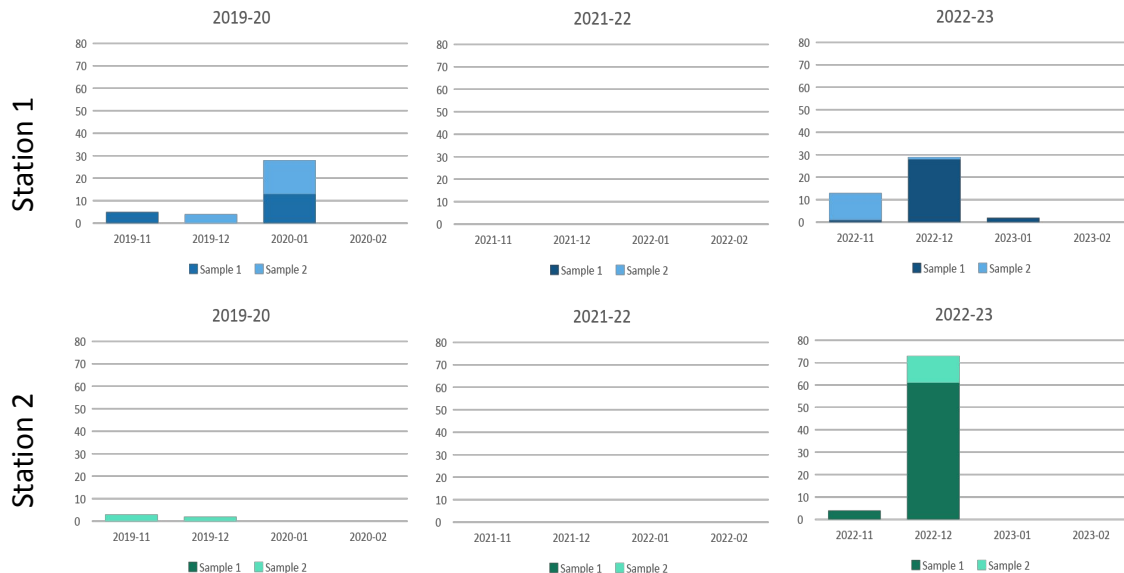
Hoypus Point surf smelt spawning surveys: October 2020 – May 2024



Seahorse Siesta sand lance spawning surveys: 2019 – 2023



Sand lance eggs found in samples at Seahorse Siesta stations



- Pacific sand lance spawning season in the Puget Sound is from November to February.
- Once a month during spawning season two samples are taken at each sampling station. Sample 2 is collected at a lower tidal elevation than sample 1.
- No samples were collected during the winter of 2020-2021. No eggs were found in samples collected during the winter of 2021-2022.

Resources:

- NWSC forage fish program: <https://nwstraits.org/our-work/forage-fish/>
- WDFW forage fish spawning map: <https://tinyurl.com/Forage-Fish-Map>
- More forage fish information:





Island County Shore Friendly Program

Valerie dos Santos
Shore Friendly Program Coordinator
Island County Division of Natural
Resources



About Me

Valerie dos Santos

- Bachelors of Animal Science from Brigham Young University-Idaho
- Masters in Wildlife Conservation and Management From Unity University



My background includes having coordinated and conducted environmental and biological assessment for threatened and endangered species, implementing compliance monitoring, and developing technical reports in alignment with federal and state standards. I have worked with various organizations such as the US Fish and Wildlife Services, non-profits, and I'm now proud to be working with Island County and the Shore Friendly program.

Program Goals

Our program aims to cut down on shoreline armoring and revitalize shoreline habitats throughout the Sound, benefiting fish, wildlife, and local communities.

After slide

Our focus is on hard armoring. Hard armor refers to structures like bulkheads and seawalls used to protect shorelines from erosion.

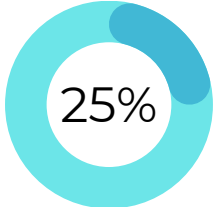
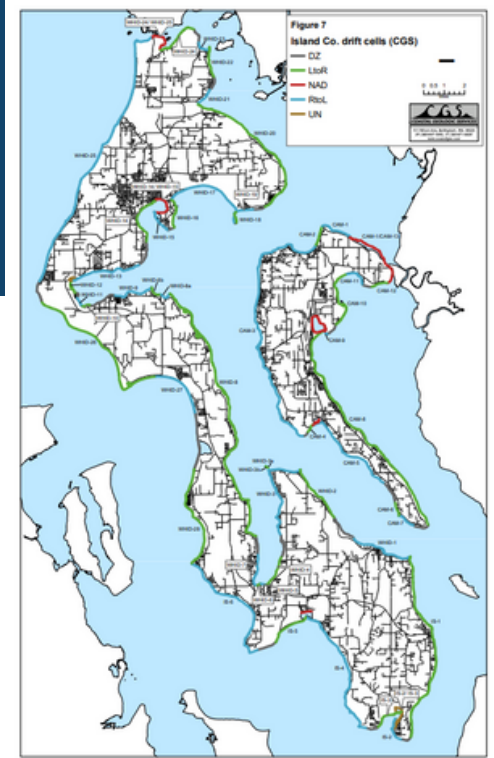
About Shore Friendly!



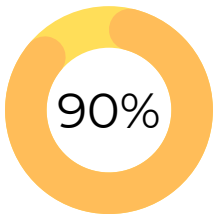
Established in 2014

- It is a federally funded incentive program for private landowners along the shorelines of Puget Sound. The program's goals are to restore shoreline habitats and reduce shoreline armor for the benefit of wildlife, fish, and communities.
- Island County Shore Friendly is funded wholly or in part by the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)

The Shoreline within Island County



- 25% of the Puget Sound's shoreline has hard armoring



- 90% of beach sediment in our area comes from bluff erosion

The Puget Sound features over 2,500 miles of shoreline, including recreational and ecological diversity, and approximately 25% of it has hard armoring.

Island County has around 200 miles of shoreline along marine waters, making it home to the second highest percentage of shoreline parcels in the Puget Sound.

Approximately 90% of beach sediment in our area comes from bluff erosion (Keuler 1988)

Erosion is one of the largest concern for homeowners who contact the shore friendly program

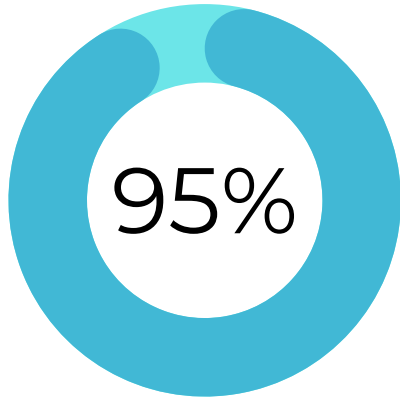
*NAD- No Appreciable Drift

*LtoR - Left to Right

*RtoL - Right to Left

*

Erosion and Hard Armoring



Consequences of Hard Armoring

- Beach Burial: Hard armor can cover and eliminate natural beach areas.
- Increased Erosion: Nearby beaches can experience worsened erosion as a result.
- Ecological Harm: Disrupts habitats critical for salmon, shellfish, and other native species.

The MRC study found within Island County that since 2016 approximately 95% of hard armoring that has been installed was done without permits.

Erosion rates within the Puget Sound mainly vary from moderate to low and hard armor may not be necessary.

Consequences of installed hard armoring when not needed include: read slide

Balancing shoreline protection with ecological health is crucial for the sustainability of Puget Sound's environment.

It is that balance of ecological health and protection that is the main goal of the Shore Friendly Program!

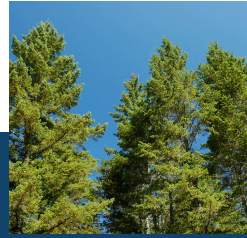
Services Offered By Shore Friendly



Free Technical Site
Visits and Reports



Landowner Workshops
and Neighboring
Beach Walks



Shore Projects
ex. vegetation
design



Cost Sharing: Mini
Grants



What happens during a site visit?

- 1-2 hours long with an expert
- free technical report



During our site visits, we offer complimentary technical assistance to shoreline owners. Each visit lasts about 1-2 hours and is conducted in collaboration with one of our partner organizations.

Currently, we work with the Whidbey Conservation District and Herrera Consulting to facilitate these visits. As we expand, we aim to establish partnerships with additional organizations.

During these visits we encourage shoreline owners to invite their neighbors or anyone interested in attending.

The Shore friendly program is 100% voluntary and non-regulatory

You can think of these visits as a private workshop meant to aid your understanding of your shoreline homes.

Typically 6-8 weeks after a visit shoreline owners receive a report documenting the current conditions of their property and any recommendations provided by our technical experts.

After receiving the report, shoreline owners may apply for a mini-grant to support the implementation of the recommendations

Mini Grants



- Funding can range from \$500.00 - \$5,000.00

Eligible Activities:

- Consulting services
- Project design
- Permitting fees
- Project implementation

Mini-grant amounts will range from \$500 to \$5,000 and can be used for projects to support either the removal of shoreline armoring or the prevention of future armoring.

Examples of these projects include:

Bulkhead removal

Soft shore protection

Native vegetation installation

Drainage management

House or septic relocation

With funding aiding to cover costs associated with eligible Activities.



Questions?

Sign up for a visit!



*10 break after the questions