SUBTIDAL MONITORING OF SHORELINE RESTORATION EFFECTIVENESS

Do the benefits of removing shoreline armor extend beyond the beach? While shoreline restoration improves habitat for beach-spawning forage fish, we don’t yet know if salmon and herring, important species found in deeper waters of Puget Sound just beyond the beach, also benefit from armor removal.

What we’re doing

We are surveying sites where armor has been removed, evaluating these shoreline restoration projects for their benefits beyond the beach, including providing habitat for salmonid species and Pacific herring. Our sampling includes:

- Snorkel surveys: visual surveys of fish presence
- Net surveys: to aid in fish identification and enumeration
- Benthic habitat surveys: to determine impacts of armor on fish-supporting habitat

We will compare observations from restored sites to sites with armor and never-armored sites to determine whether restoration helps these fish species.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Much of the armor around the Puget Sound shoreline may not be needed to protect property, but harms the Puget Sound ecosystem. Property owners can contact county or conservation district offices to ask about technical resources, including erosion risk evaluation, and financial assistance available for armor removal.

ABOUT THE PUGET SOUND INSTITUTE

The Puget Sound Institute (PSI) was established at the University of Washington to identify and catalyze the science driving Puget Sound and Salish Sea ecosystem recovery. PSI receives major funding from the Environmental Protection Agency. This project is a collaboration with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center at NOAA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://blogs.uw.edu/tessa/2018/01/11/sos/
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