

Derelict Vessel Removal in Snohomish Estuary

This project will remove derelict vessels from the Snohomish Estuary to restore declining nearshore habitats and prevent further damage from derelict vessels.

What we're doing

Work with DNR to verify ownership, location, and condition of derelict vessels; work with DNR to take ownership of vessel using public notice process; document boat condition and provide site map and photos to DNR.

Hire contractor and test for hazardous materials as required. Deconstruct, recycle and dispose of the vessel, documenting vessel removal with photos and map.



How we're doing it

We are working with DNR, MRC Members, and local experts to prioritize vessels for removal that post the most risk to habitat and human health and to leverage additional funding for removal.

Why This Issue Is Important

Washington Department of Ecology has had 39 notifications of vessel incidents regarding oil spills on Ebey Slough, Steamboat Slough, or the Snohomish River over the last two years.



What You Can Do

- Volunteer with our many groups doing restoration in Snohomish County including the Snohomish Marine Resources Advisory Committee
- Support the state and federal programs that help salmon, agriculture and flood risk reduction

About Our Organization

The Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC) is a team of citizen volunteers appointed by Council to promoting effective stewardship of Snohomish County's marine waters, habitats, species, and shorelines.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.snocomrc.org

Snohomish County, Surface Water Management

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Project outcomes

Five derelict vessels were removed from the Snohomish Estuary. Funding was provided by the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Snohomish County Surface Water Management. Removing these derelict vessels helps improve water quality by removing toxics and also improves habitat by removing physical barriers. Over twenty two tons of marine debris was removed as part of this project. All the derelict boats were recycled or destroyed following a process to identify and work with last known owners according to Washington Administrative Code.



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Boats continue to be abandoned in the Snohomish Estuary. Multi-jurisdictional collaboration is needed to address this issue. Marinas operating in violation of local, state, and federal permit and safety requirements are one source of abandoned boats. Addressing boats when they are first abandoned and often intact is much less expensive than waiting until they have to be taken apart in the water and removed in pieces. Additional funding is needed locally to remove the legacy abandoned boats and handle new derelict vessels. The state legislature should increase funding for the DNR Derelict Vessel Program.



LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

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