

Use this fact sheet as an internal reference about the Northwest Straits Initiative and when discussing the Initiative with external audiences to help ensure common messaging throughout the Initiative.

Elevator Pitch

The Northwest Straits Initiative is a community-led collaboration working to protect and restore the marine environment of northwest Washington.

Key Messages

Cooperative Structure



The Northwest Straits Initiative carries out our work through the Marine Resources Committees, the Commission, and the Foundation.

Community-Led Projects



We bring together scientists and community members to implement on-the-ground projects through a bottom-up approach.

Government Advisors



Marine Resources Committees are the cornerstone of the Initiative, serving as advisors to local government and leading projects that make positive regional impacts.

Collaborative Mission



We are a collaborative group that convenes a broad spectrum of community interests, including economic, recreational, conservation, and scientific.

Collective Partnerships



The Northwest Straits Initiative complements the work of agencies and tribal co-managers, fostering partnerships for greater collective impact.

Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) are locally-based advisory groups comprised of volunteers with an interest in protecting their local marine waters. MRCs receive base funding through grant agreements with the NWS Commission to accomplish priority restoration and protection work in their local areas.

The Northwest Straits Commission provides funding, training and support to seven county-based Marine Resources Committees. It facilitates regional coordination among the MRCs and connects the MRC work to regional planning efforts.

The Northwest Straits Foundation is the nonprofit arm of the organization established to leverage additional financial resources to accomplish the work of the Initiative. The Northwest Straits Foundation raises private and public funds and also manages large regional projects such as the removal of derelict fishing gear.

