



# Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee

## FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

### MISSION

We are dedicated citizen volunteers and stakeholders who represent our communities to protect and restore Snohomish County’s marine ecosystems and shoreline through stewardship, the best available science, resource management, and partnerships with native tribes, government, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

### VISION

A healthy, enduring marine ecosystem in Snohomish County which contributes to the overall health of Puget Sound and which is shared and protected by all.

### Collaborate

#### Goal

The MRC collaborates with partners to bring together existing efforts that support the local marine environment and take actions that would not be possible alone.

#### Objectives

- Maintain a strong relationship with other MRCs and the Northwest Straits Commission and Foundation to **share ideas and best practices**.
- Continue to **strengthen partnerships** with local tribes by identifying shared interests and priorities.
- Partner with state agencies to **carry out local actions** advancing statewide efforts on monitoring and conservation.
- Engage partners that are representative of Snohomish County communities, including educational institutions, to foster **collective action**.

#### Result

Sustained collaborative relationships with key partners that build capacity for both organizations to achieve results.

### Conserve

#### Goal

The best available science is gathered and shared with the public and decision-makers to support local conservation efforts.

#### Objectives

- Monitor, preserve, and improve **water quality**.
- Support monitoring efforts to track critical local marine **flora and fauna**.
- Include **traditional ecological knowledge** with other science sources.

#### Result

No net loss of quality shoreline and marine habitat.

### Advise

#### Goal

County Council and local decision-makers have the best available science and community knowledge to support the marine environment and the people who depend on marine ecosystems for their culture, livelihood, and recreation.

#### Objectives

- Review, anticipate, and comment promptly on **local policy** development and revisions as they relate to **nearshore and marine protection**.
- Report annually to **Snohomish County Council** to share results and provide key recommendations.
- County Council and local **decision-makers reach out to the MRC** when they need insight on marine ecosystems and policy options.

#### Result

County Council make decisions supportive of a healthy marine ecosystem.



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### Restore

#### Goal

Native species, habitat, water quality, and beaches are healthy and functioning with safe, harvestable, and abundant levels of marine resources.

#### Objectives

- Identify, prioritize, and contribute to local nearshore and marine **habitat restoration projects**.
- Collaborate with key partners to **mitigate the adverse effects** of human activities on marine ecosystems
- Support ongoing restoration **site stewardship**.

#### Result

The Snohomish County marine environment improves as a functioning and resilient ecosystem.

### Educate

#### Goal

The public understands the connection between their civic engagement, personal actions and behaviors, and their impact on the marine environment.

#### Objectives

- **Share monitoring data** collected by the MRC to inform the public of local marine ecosystem threats and successes.
- **Engage local communities** in their marine environment through local outreach efforts.

#### Result

Responsible and aware communities that are stewards of their marine environment.

### Strengthen Organization

#### Goal

Stable funding, staffing, and engaged volunteers create a strong organizational foundation to foster and measure positive progress in protecting local marine ecosystems.

#### Objectives

- Recruit and retain passionate **committee members** that reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of Snohomish County.
- Obtain **two full-time staff** equivalents.
- Sponsor **interns** to support projects and mentor future stewards.
- Pursue **adequate funding** for a robust Snohomish County marine program.
- Support training and **community member involvement** as project volunteers to build a coalition of community scientists.

#### Result

High levels of volunteer and staff retention provide strong continuity from year-to-year to forward a shared vision.

The Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC) created a strategic plan over ten months in 2024 with input from members, county staff, and partners. This plan aligns with the Northwest Straits Initiative 2019-2024 Strategic Plan when possible. The plan is organized using six themes covering the MRC's work. Each theme has a goal and desired long-term result, with high-level objectives that can adapt to changing conditions. Annual workplans provide details on projects that advance the vision of the MRC.