

# Mukilteo's Underwater Meadows:

Mukilteo is home to underwater eelgrass meadows, just off our shoreline!



## Eelgrass blooms in underwater meadows

Eelgrass, often mistaken for seaweed, is a species of grass that forms underwater meadows. They even produce flowers! And just as meadows do, eelgrass habitat provides many benefits to animals, ecosystems, and humans.

### Climate

Eelgrass helps us respond to climate change. Eelgrass absorbs and stores carbon, helping to slow climate change, while also preventing erosion by cushioning the impact of waves.

### Community

When we lose eelgrass habitat, we lose the creatures who rely on it—including endangered orca, salmon, and shellfish. These species are culturally important to local tribal, recreational, and commercial communities. We're connected to eelgrass, whether we are making food, crabbing, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, diving, or simply enjoying the beauty of where we live.

### SUBMERGED VEGETATION MONITORING PROGRAM SITES

-  Eelgrass present in this area
-  Area of last observed kelp - 2018
-  Mukilteo lighthouse



Mukilteo

### Habitat

As land meadows are home to deer, birds, and other animals, eelgrass meadows provide shelter and food for young herring, salmon, crab, and other species.

### Water Quality

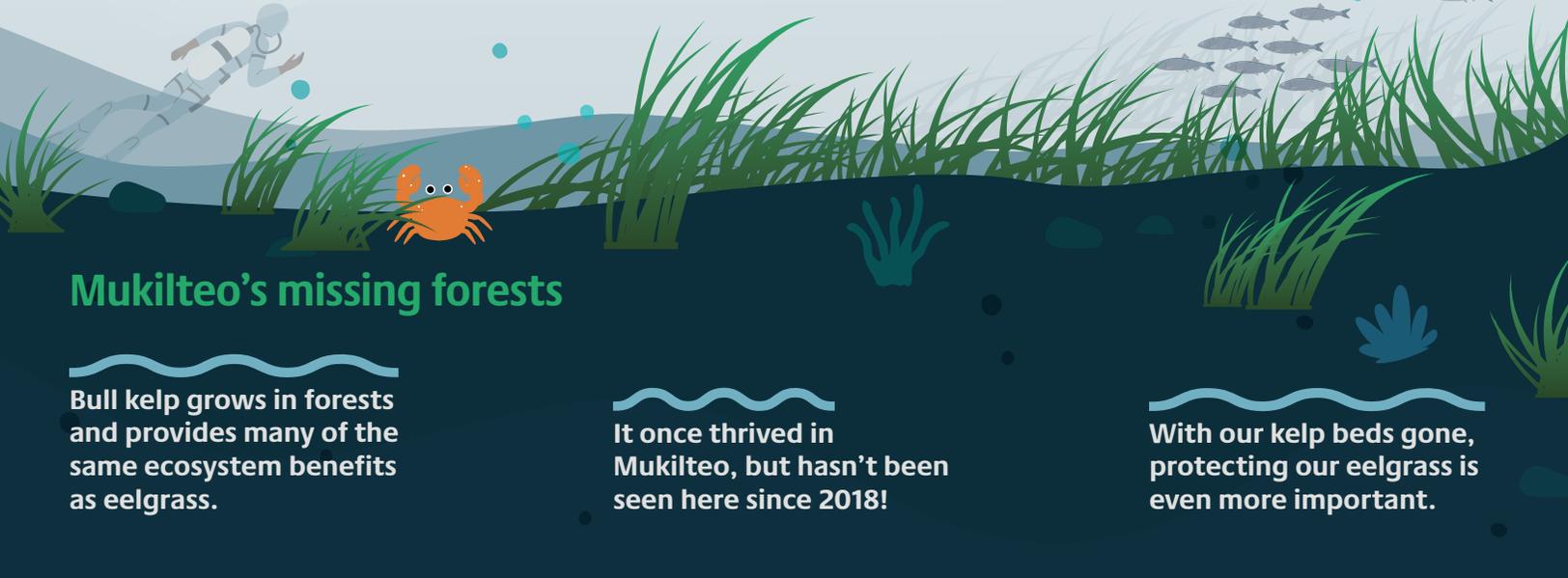
Eelgrass helps reduce pollution in our water, keeping it clean and safe for humans and marine life.

## Mukilteo's missing forests

Bull kelp grows in forests and provides many of the same ecosystem benefits as eelgrass.

It once thrived in Mukilteo, but hasn't been seen here since 2018!

With our kelp beds gone, protecting our eelgrass is even more important.



# Actions you can take...

Eelgrass is a critical resource to our environment and community, especially with bull kelp beds no longer present in Mukilteo. Eelgrass experiences many different stressors, but fortunately, there are actions we can all take at home and on the water to help give eelgrass the conditions it needs to survive!

Any water going down our storm drains goes directly into our streams and the Puget Sound. There are simple actions we can take to help keep our water clean and our eelgrass healthy.

## ...at home...



**Plant rain gardens**—they can help keep our water clear of harmful sediment.



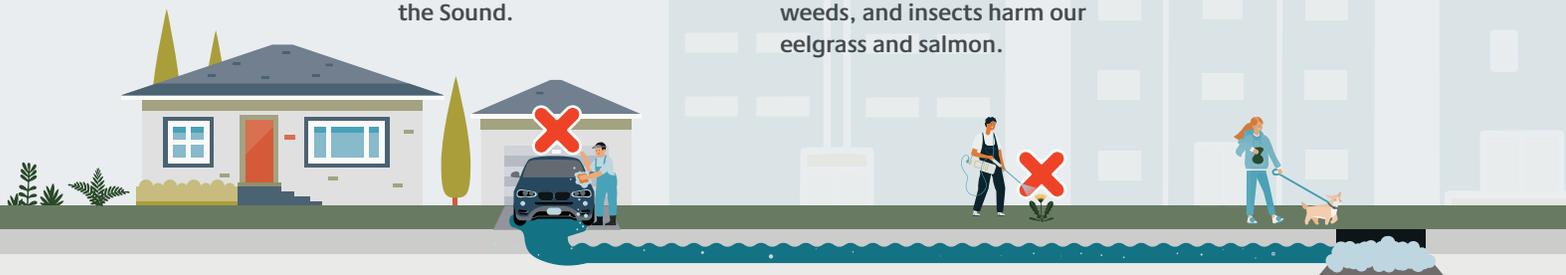
**Use car washes** instead of washing at home! When you wash cars at home, soap, oil, and harmful chemicals go into the Sound.



**Avoid using chemicals** to remove moss from roofs and weeds from lawns. The same chemicals that kill moss, weeds, and insects harm our eelgrass and salmon.



**Pick up pet waste**—pet waste is one of the leading pollutants of our water.



## ...and on the water.



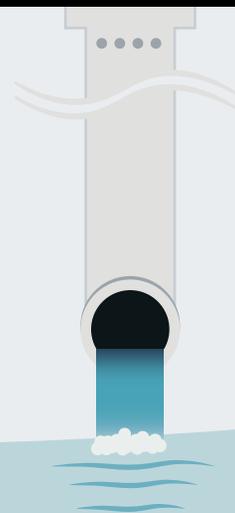
**Avoid eelgrass beds** when boating, anchoring, or fishing by anchoring in water at least 25 ft deep.



Set **crab pots outside of eelgrass beds**.



**Tread lightly**—walk carefully through or around eelgrass at low tide.



**Snohomish County**  
Marine Resources  
Committee



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AND CONNECT WITH  
GROUPS WHO CARE!**

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