

Boaters!

We're connected to bull kelp and eelgrass, whether we are preparing food, crabbing, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, diving, or simply enjoying the beauty of where we live. When we lose kelp and eelgrass habitats, we lose the creatures with them—and that includes endangered orca, shellfish, crab, and salmon. These species are important to local recreational, tribal, and commercial communities.



Let's work together to protect our shared waters!

What harms our bull kelp and eelgrass?



Anchors can uproot eelgrass and leave scars.



Propellers can damage the tops of bull kelp, preventing photosynthesis and reproduction.



Crab pots set in kelp and eelgrass can cause damage.

How can we help protect our bull kelp and eelgrass?



Anchor in at least 25 feet of water at low tide to avoid eelgrass habitat. Find out more at: snocomrc.org



Steer clear of bull kelp beds when you see them to avoid damage by propellers.



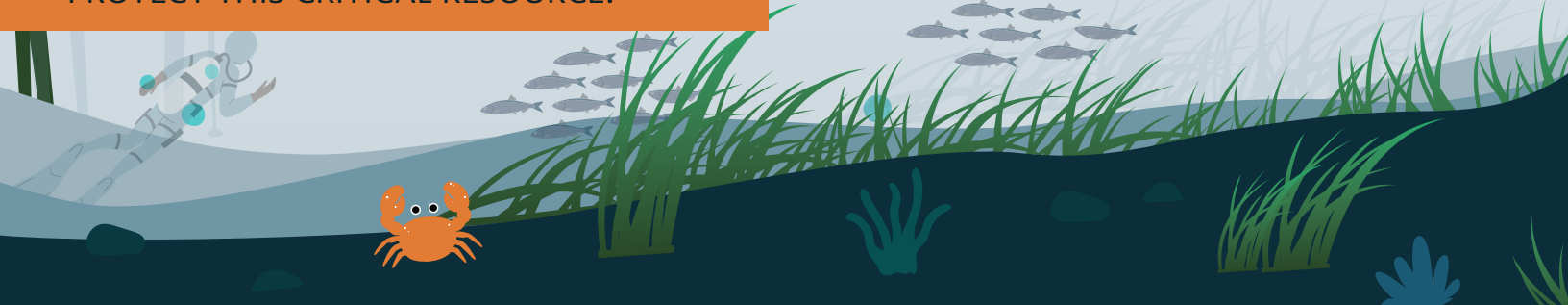
Set crab pots outside eelgrass and bull kelp beds.



Plan ahead—know where bull kelp and eelgrass beds are located to avoid traveling through bull kelp beds or anchoring in eelgrass. Find out how at snocomrc.org OR Scan the QR code above to find our local marine vegetation.

SHARE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY!

LET OTHER BOATERS KNOW HOW WE CAN PROTECT THIS CRITICAL RESOURCE.



Protect our Underwater Forests and Meadows!

Kelp and Eelgrass Protection Zone

Washington State created the first official Kelp and Eelgrass Protection Zone in Snohomish County waters, **protecting 2,300 acres of marine vegetation**. We have bull kelp and eelgrass beds in our backyard. You play a direct role in protecting our local bull kelp and eelgrass!



Eelgrass meadows are:

- Located near sandy and muddy shorelines in up to 25' of water at low tide.
- Able to prevent erosion and can help fight climate change impacts.
- Vital habitat for Dungeness crab, juvenile salmon, forage fish, herring, and birds.
- Vulnerable to boating impacts, especially anchor drag.



Bull kelp forests are:

- The official underwater forest of the state of Washington.
- Essential habitat for species such as forage fish, rockfish and salmon.
- Important for the bird and mammal food web.
- Experiencing die-offs in the South Puget Sound that are spreading North.

Snohomish County is at the northern edge of bull kelp die offs occurring in south Puget Sound.

Help protect these vital habitats from boating impacts!
Puget Sound is your home, it's their home, and together, it's our home.



Snohomish County
Marine Resources
Committee

This fact sheet was prepared by Snohomish County MRC using Federal funds under award NA23NMF4690358 from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NOAA or the U.S. Department of Commerce.

