

Identifying factors associated with patterns in floating kelp loss and resilience through coordinated monitoring and research

There is an urgent need to understand bull kelp declines in the Salish Sea. In this project, a broad coalition of groups will integrate diverse efforts to:

- Conduct coordinated monitoring and research across a wide range of environmental conditions and bull kelp responses.
- Build on existing knowledge by studying sites of kelp resilience and loss, which constitute natural experiments.
- Develop recommendations for future research and monitoring.



Bull kelp

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Intensive field work at a network of 15 sites:

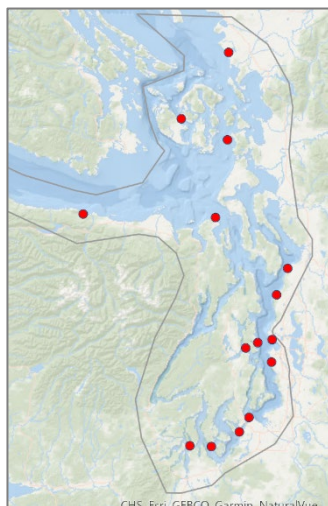
- Kelp canopy extent and condition
- Environmental conditions monitoring
- Benthic dive surveys

We will combine the data we collect with existing datasets to identify relationships between the condition of bull kelp and site-specific ecological and environmental factors. Looking forward, we will recommend enhancements to regional floating kelp monitoring and research.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Kelp forests create rich and ecologically important underwater ecosystems. Bull kelp has declined sharply in some areas of the southern Salish Sea. The causal factors are not understood.

This work supports actions that promote kelp forest resilience.



Project field sites

WHAT YOU CAN DO

This project completes priority actions identified in the Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan. Learn about the plan and attend public workgroup meetings [here](#). Learn about status and trends in floating kelp in Washington state [here](#). Learn more about volunteer kayak monitoring [here](#). Learn more about volunteer dive surveys with [ReefCheck](#).

ABOUT OUR COALITION

Coalition partners include the Dept. of Natural Resources, University of Washington, University of Chicago, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northwest Straits Commission, Reef Check, Samish Indian Nation, Marine Agronomics, USGS, the Edmonds Underwater Park, and the Puget Sound Restoration Fund.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Helen Berry, DNR

helen.berry@dnr.wa.gov

Selected for funding by Habitat SIL

