



KILISUT HARBOR ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT

In the early 1900s, a roadway with bridges was constructed to join Indian and Marrowstone Islands, in Admiralty Inlet, which lies between Whidbey Island and the Olympic Peninsula. In the 1940s, the state replaced the bridges with a causeway and large culverts, and in 1958 replaced these culverts with smaller ones. As a result, tidal exchange of water in Kilisut Harbor became severely impaired, and the marine environment of the harbor degraded significantly. The Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project will restore tidal exchange and recover the 2,300 acres of estuary habitat of Kilisut Harbor. The project is at 90% design. Design began in 2014 and included geotechnical studies and multiple stakeholder and partner reviews (technical and funding partners).

Total funding anticipated to complete project (including Design Phase): \$17,762,032



Kilisut Harbor. photo credit: Scott Hayden and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) Kilist

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Restores tidal channels and a salt marsh to reconnect Kilisut Harbor with Oak Bay.
- Enables young salmon to migrate through a returned-to-health nearshore habitat. The salmon include salmon species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act—Hood Canal summer chum, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, and Puget Sound steelhead.
- Restores water quality and improves shellfish habitat.
- Improves the water quality in the estuary.
- Improves resiliency of the shoreline to respond to sea level rise.
- Restores sand and gravel beaches that serve as spawning grounds for forage fish, like surf smelt and Pacific sand lance, which are important food for salmon and other marine life.
- Provides healthy habitat for migrating birds.
- Advances recovery of Puget Sound.
- Improves outdated Washington State Department of Transportation infrastructure to ensure resiliency to climate change and improved and safer ingress/egress for Marrowstone Island community during storm events.
- Upgrades infrastructure and extends useful life of passage between Indian and Marrowstone Islands.

WHAT THE FUNDING PAYS FOR

- Removal of road fill and two culverts from State Route 116
- Construction of a two-span bridge
- Dredging of historic tidal channels
- Conservation easements from willing landowners

PARTNERS

Sponsor/ Partner	Program or purpose for project support	Type of support	Investment to date	Investment pending approval
Puget Sound Partnership	Puget Sound Chinook salmon recovery; Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program	Fund management and fiscal oversight; project review and ranking based on contribution to Puget Sound recovery and	\$7,240,902	\$4,093,665
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Nearshore ecosystem restoration; Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)	Fund management and fiscal oversight; project review and ranking based on contribution to Puget Sound recovery	\$2,427,475	
U.S. Navy	Landowner; compensation for environmental impacts incurred to Hood Canal	Permitting, funding		\$1,000,000
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Benefits to tribal treaty rights	Technical support, funding using NOAA Fisheries' Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants Program		\$1,000,000
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Benefits to tribal treaty rights			
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Benefits to tribal treaty rights	Technical support		
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office		State grant program administration		
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Ecosystem restoration; National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Program, improvements to migratory bird habitat	Funding	\$1,000,000	
Washington Department of Transportation	Under U.S. District Court injunction, the WSDOT is required to correct fish passage barriers. The causeway culverts in Kilisut Harbor currently impede fish passage.	Review and approval of designs, construction inspection support	\$2,000,000	
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	Hood Canal summer chum recovery and habitat restoration; Puget Sound Chinook salmon habitat restoration	Project review and ranking based on analysis of project viability and contribution		
North Olympic Salmon Coalition		Project management and sponsorship		
Jefferson County	Lessee of Washington Department of Natural Resources; public access for recreational county park			
Washington Department of Natural Resources	Landowner	Right of entry for construction		
Salmon Recovery Funding Board		Project review and ranking based on analysis of project viability and contribution to salmon recovery		
Marrowstone Island Community		Endorsement		

For more information about the Kilisut Harbor Estuary Restoration Project please contact: Rebecca Benjamin, rbenjamin@nocs.org