

G3: 4.4.e. Increase eelgrass beds in Puget Sound from 22,600 to 23,730 hectares by 2016



Puget Sound Eelgrass Recovery Governor Update, April 2015

Megan Duffy, Deputy Supervisor for Aquatics
Jeff Gaeckle, Seagrass Ecologist
Matt Goehring, Policy Analyst



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Why is Eelgrass Restoration Critical to Puget Sound Recovery?

Habitat

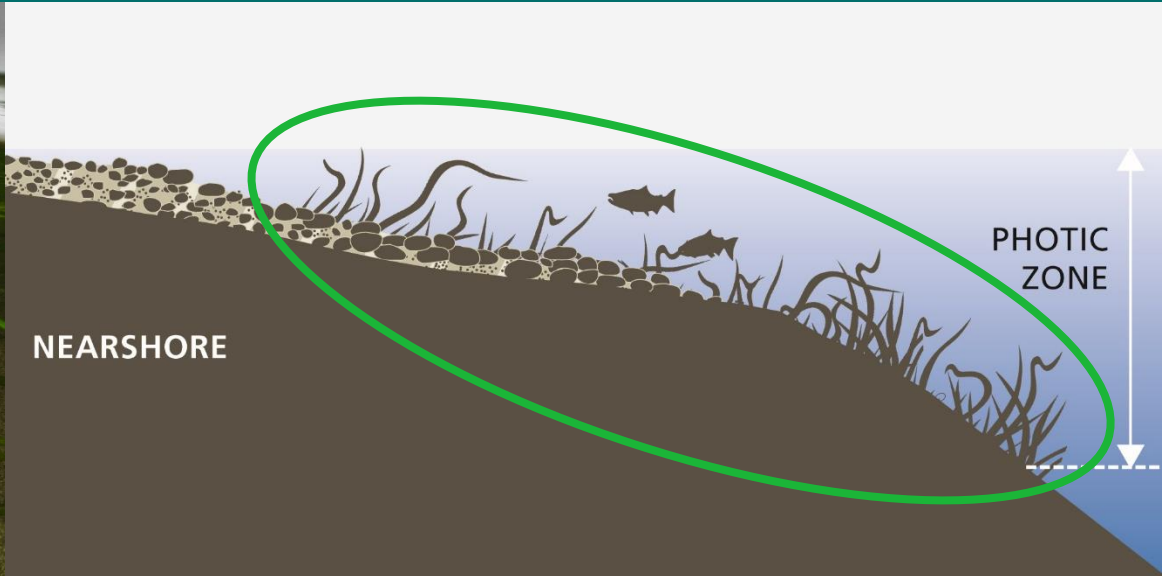
- ✓ Juvenile salmon
- ✓ Dungeness crab
- ✓ Pacific herring
- ✓ Waterfowl

Ecosystem Services

- ✓ Nearshore stabilization
- ✓ Carbon sequestration
- ✓ Ocean acidification
- ✓ Water filtration



Tavish Campbell



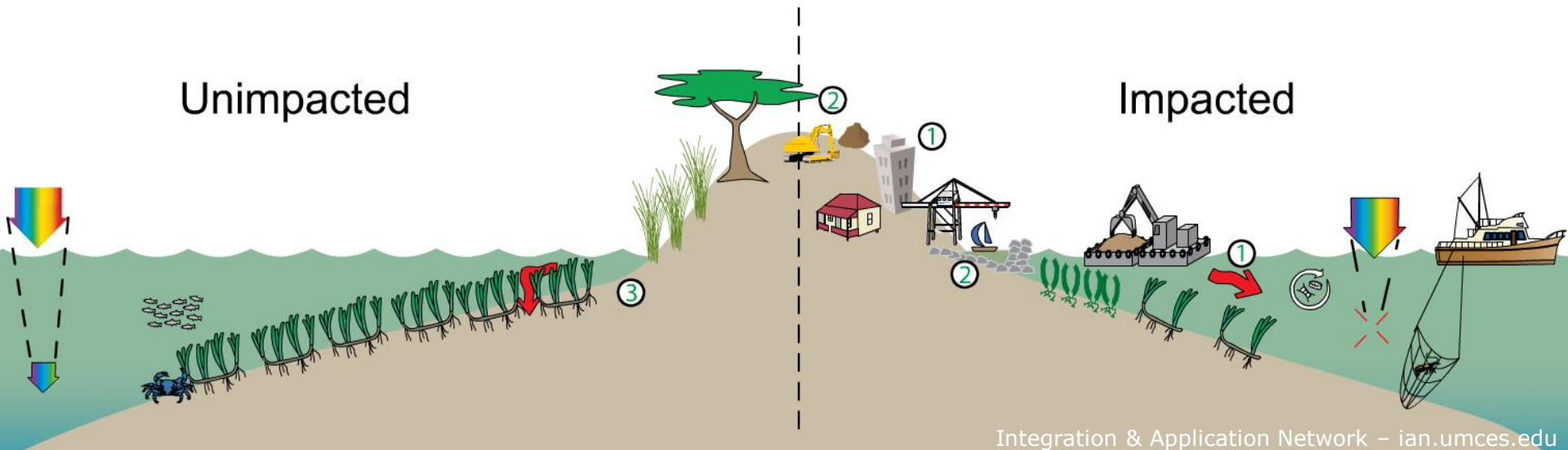
Eelgrass Stressors

Physical Impacts

- construction
- groundings

Physiological Impacts

- light limitation
- toxicity
- disease

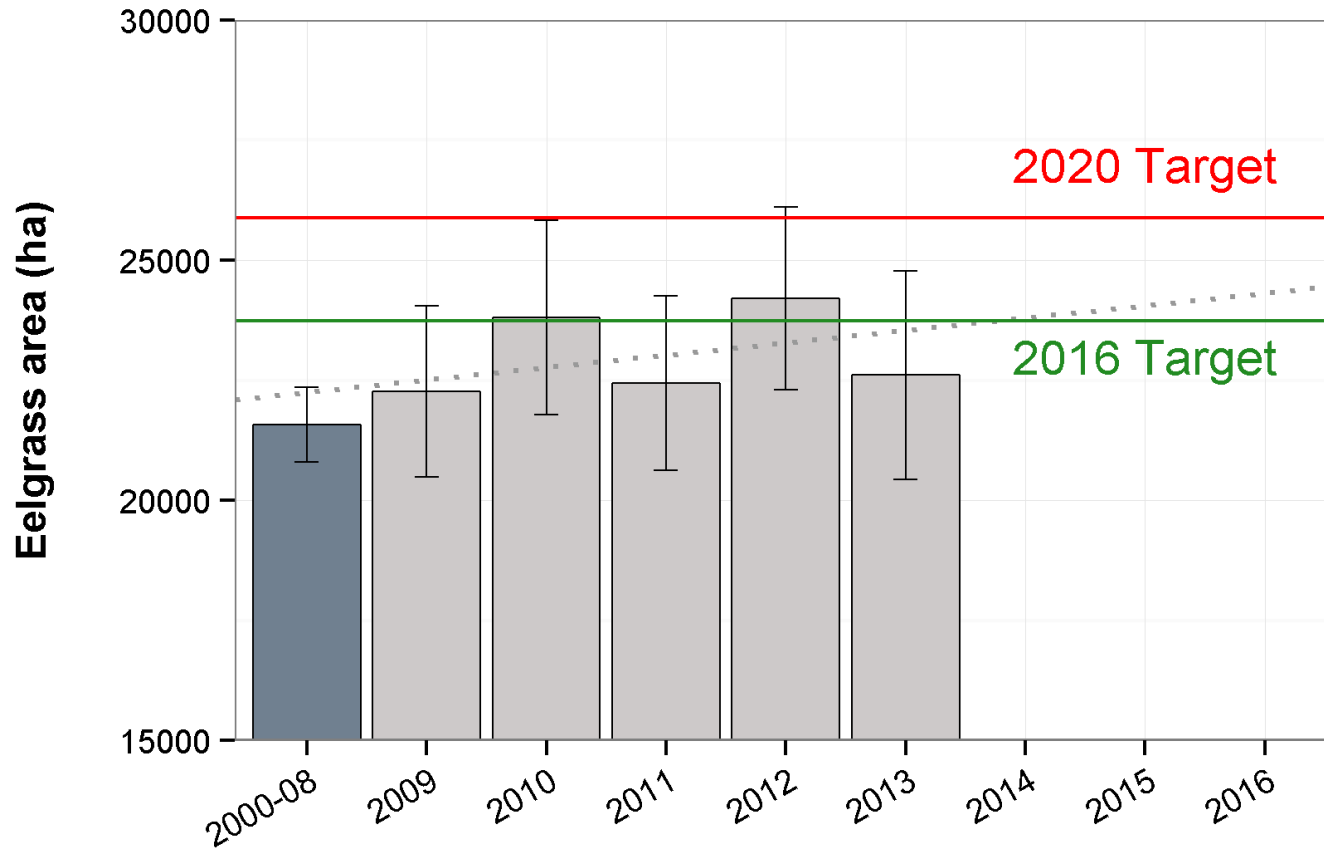


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What is the Status of the Eelgrass Recovery Target?



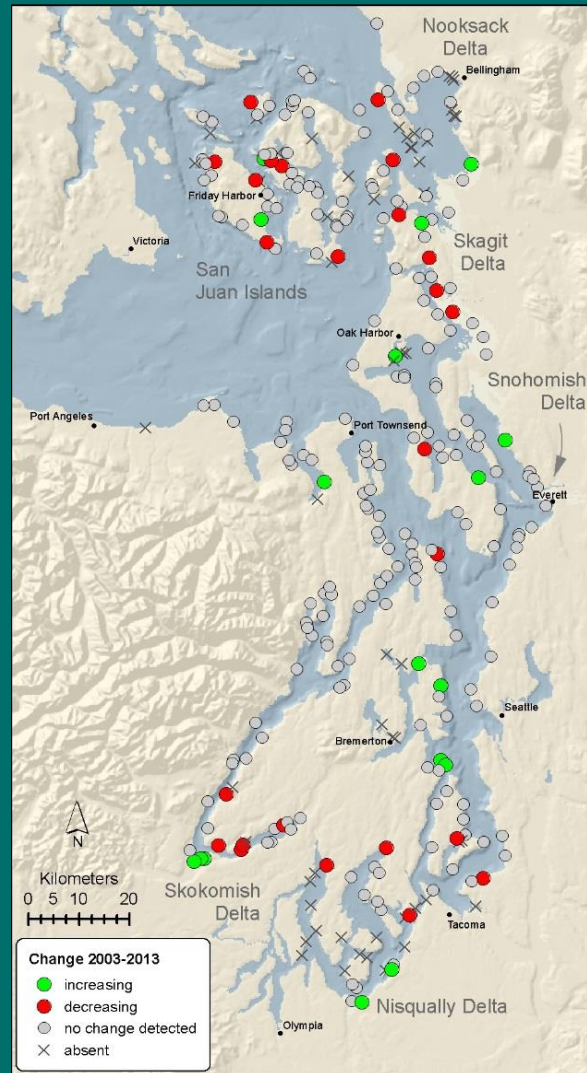
Specific & Regional Trends

Long-term:
More sites with
decreasing
eelgrass area

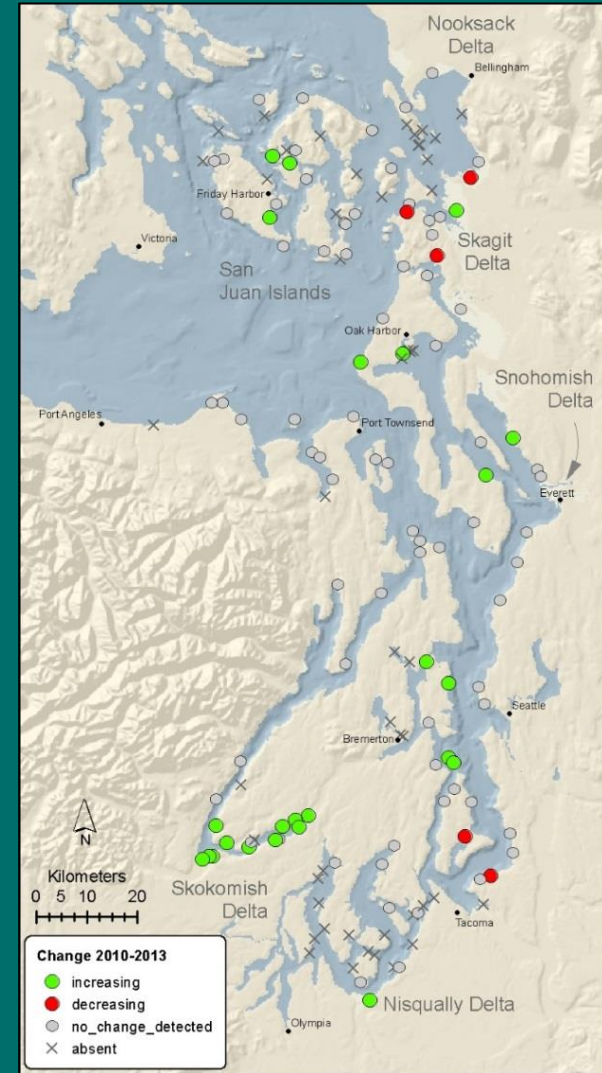


Recent:
More sites with
increasing
eelgrass area

2003-2013

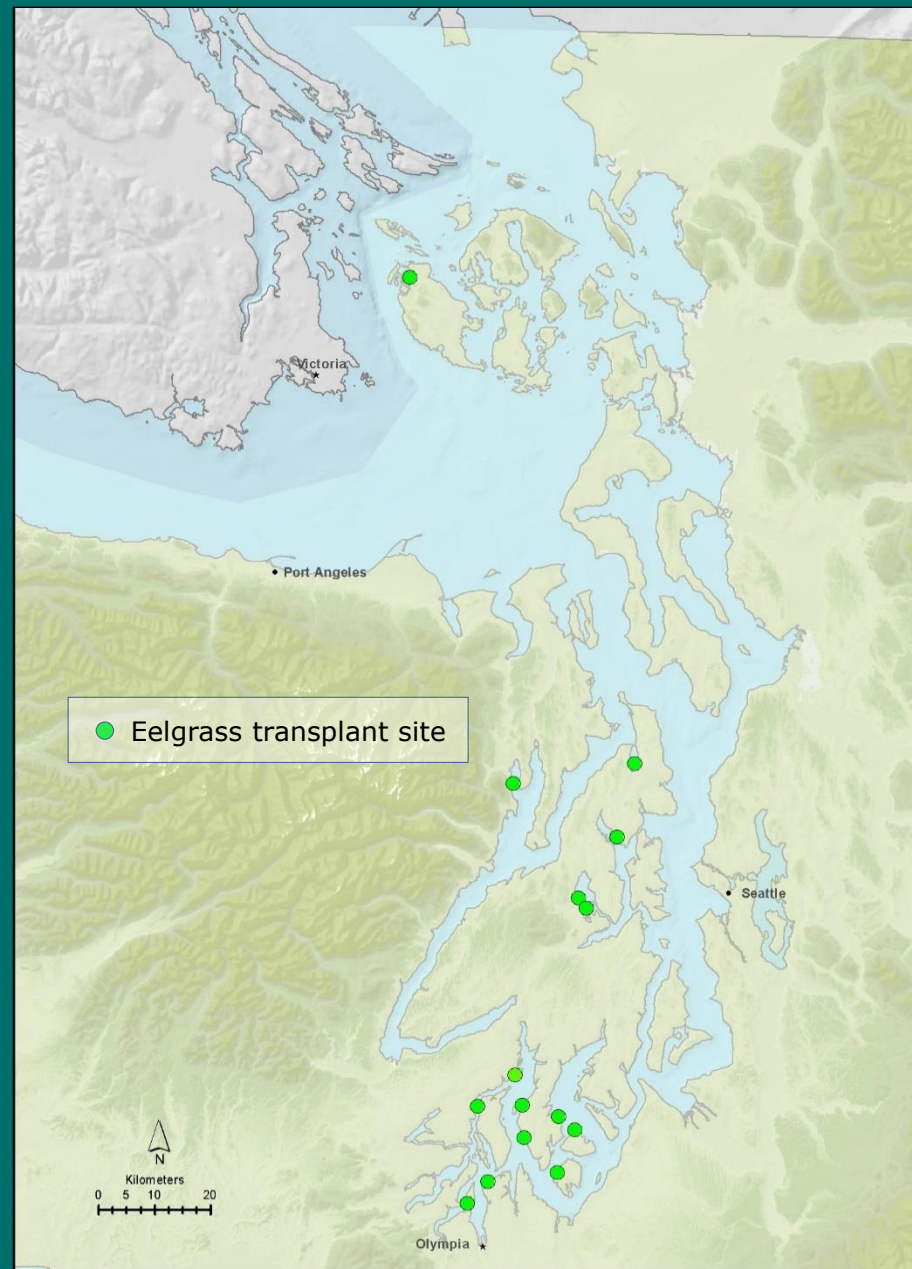


2010-2013



DNR Efforts

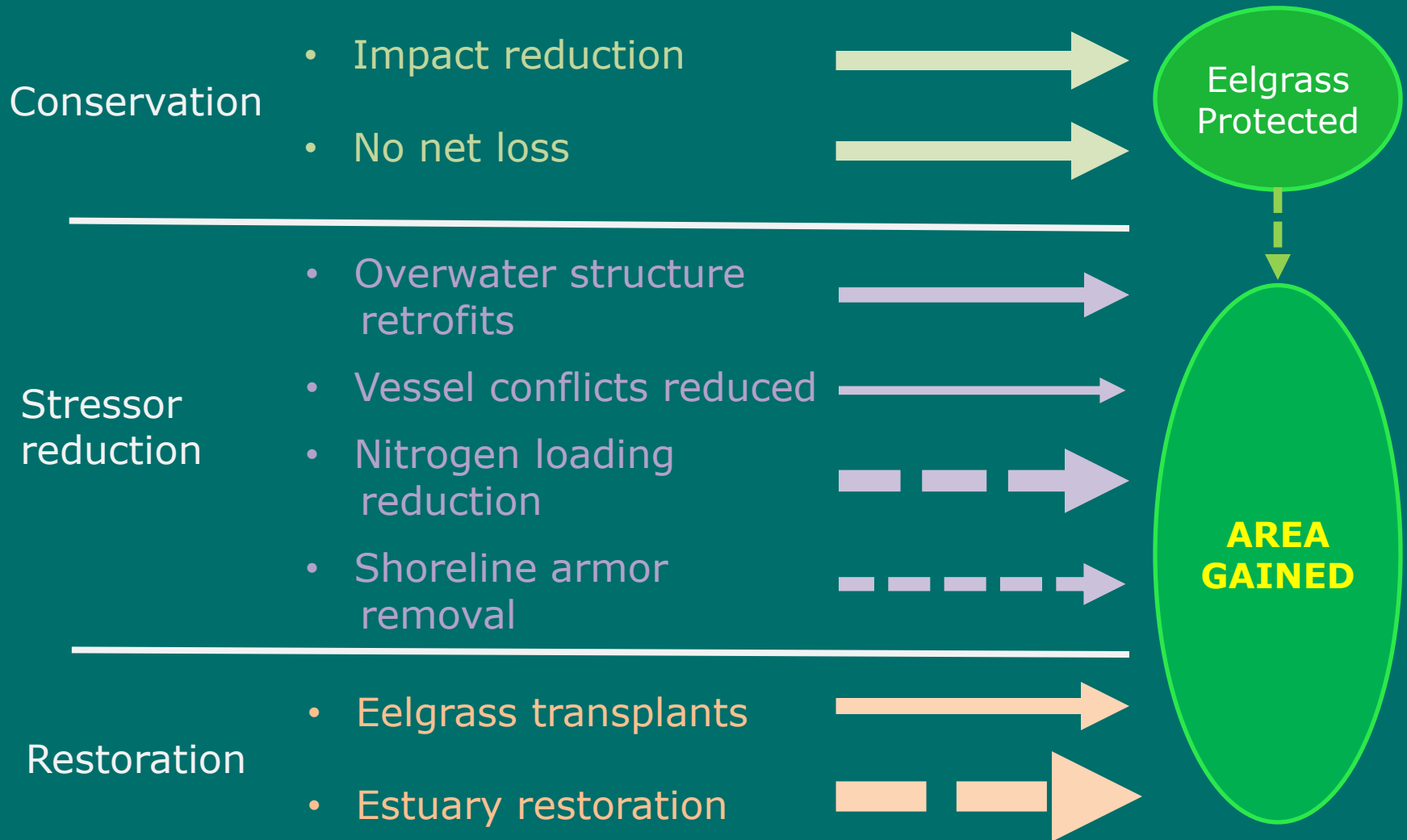
- Impact Avoidance
- Stressor Response Program
- Transplant Suitability Model
- Strategic Transplants
 - State & Federal (\$2.3 M)



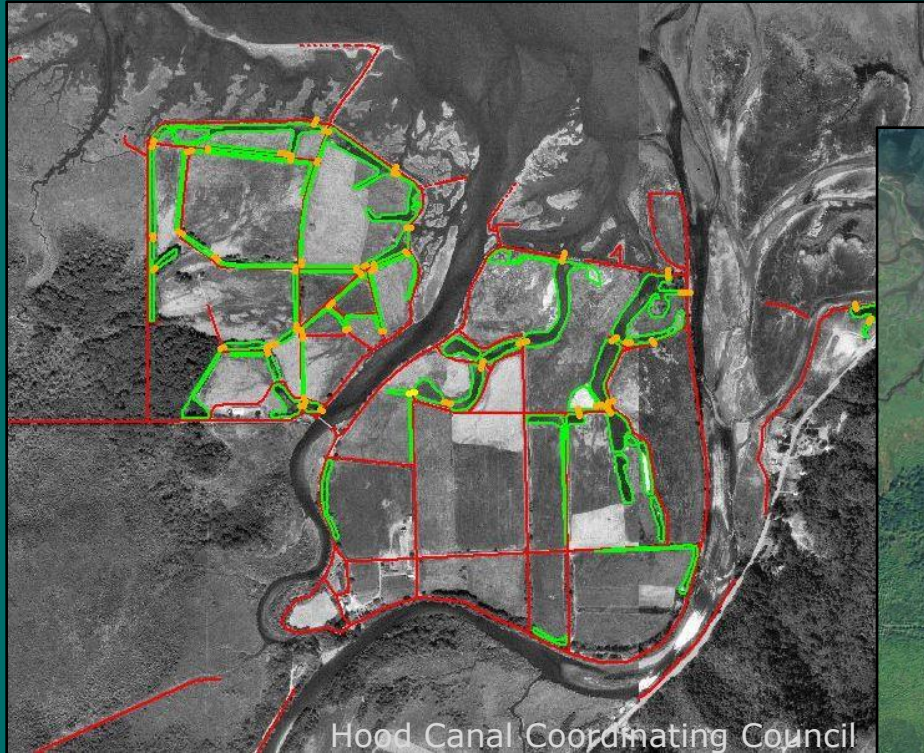
Who is Involved in Eelgrass Recovery Planning?



Recovery Strategy Recommendations

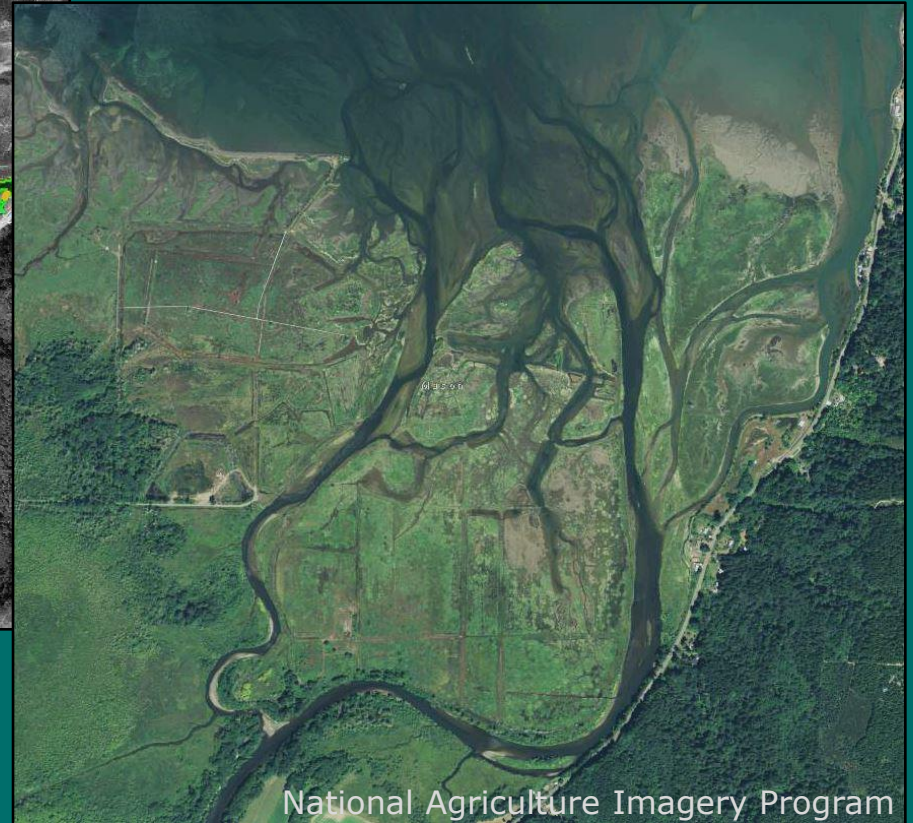


Building Off Recent Success: Skokomish Delta



Pre-2005

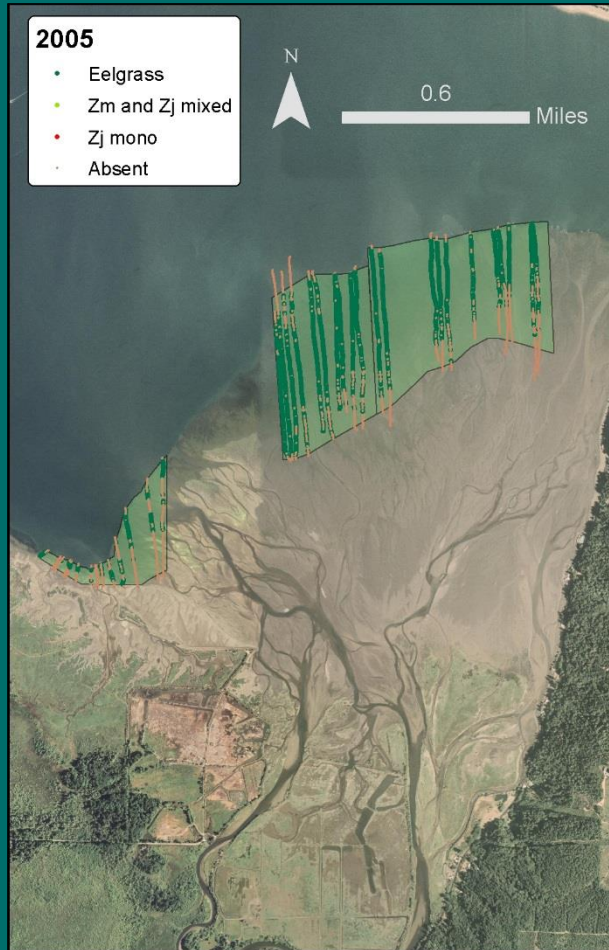
2013



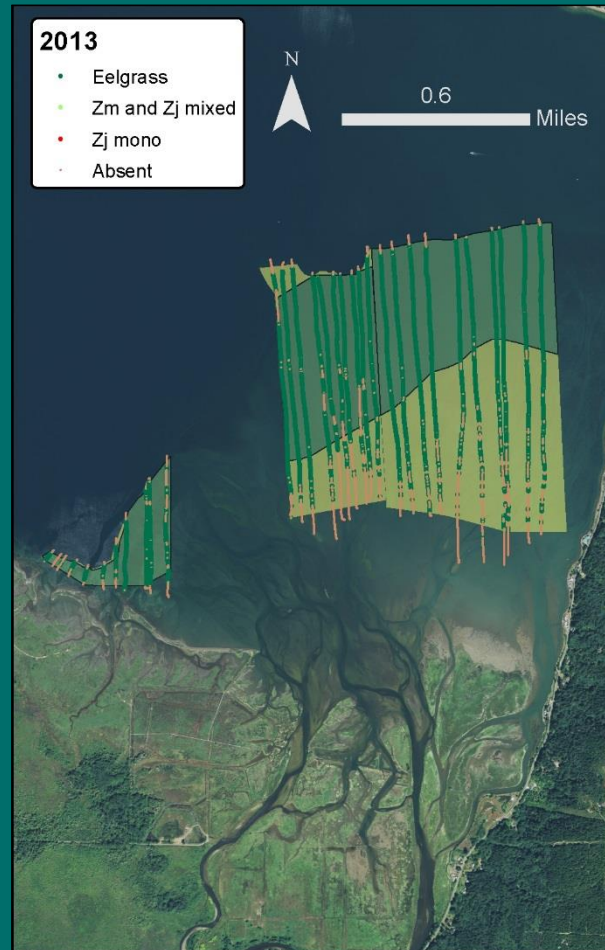
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Skokomish Delta Eelgrass Recovery

2005



2013



Multi-phase
project restores
>120 ha of
tidal wetlands



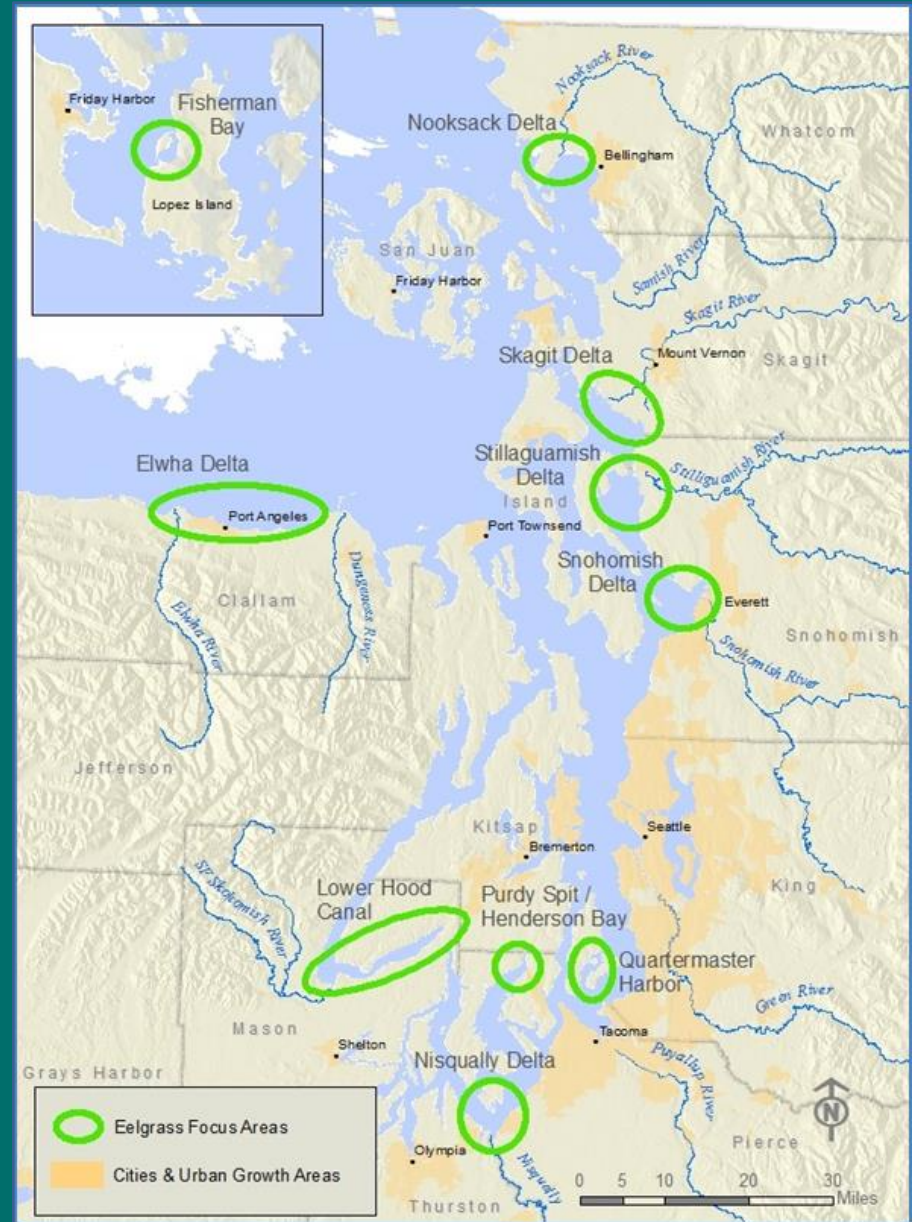
~ 80 ha
increase in
eelgrass beds



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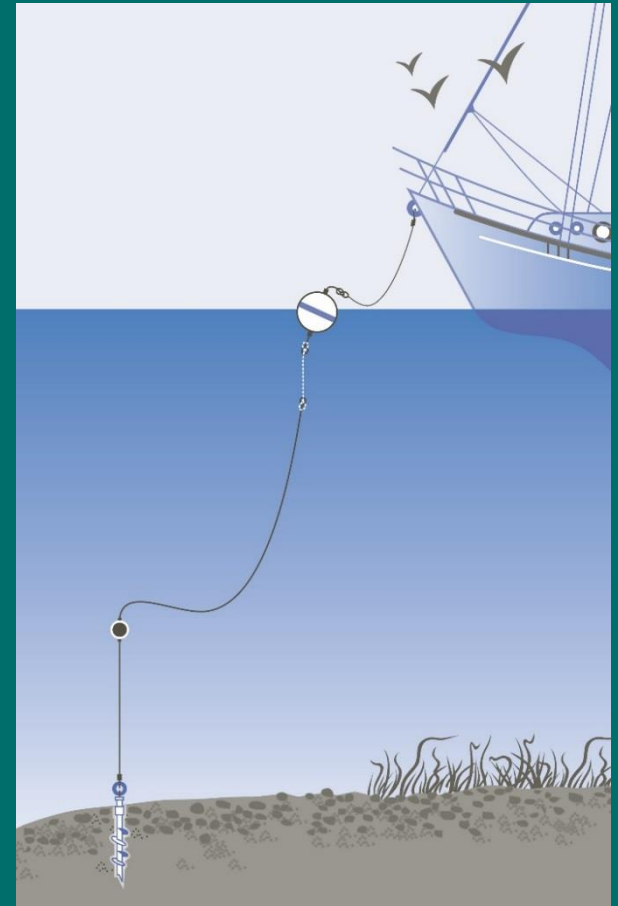
Where Should We Focus Recovery Efforts?

- River Deltas
 - ❑ Tidal wetlands
 - ❑ Strategic transplants
- Embayments
 - ❑ Water quality
 - ❑ Structure retrofits
 - ❑ Vessel moorage
 - ❑ Shoreline armor



Where is Assistance Needed to Meet the Eelgrass Recovery Target?

- Elevate Research Needs
 - ❑ Critical stressor-response relationships
- Ensure Coordination & Commitment
 - ❑ Concentrated investments within priority areas
- Secure Funding
 - ❑ Strategic plan positions partners for success



Questions?

