Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve

PROTECTING UNIQUE COASTAL WASHINGTON HABITAT TO ENSURE THE FUTURE HEALTH OF THE SALISH SEA

In the waters before you lies a thriving ecosystem that for thousands of years has held significance to local tribal communities. In 2000, this marine ecosystem was designated an Aquatic Reserve by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The Aquatic Reserve designation is intended to preserve unique habitat that supports marine and intertidal species that are crucial to the health of the Salish Sea.

One significant species that spawns in the Reserve is the Pacific herring. A critical link in the marine food web, herring belong to a group of fish known as “forage fish” because so many predators feed directly on herring. Even top predators like orcas depend on the nutrients herring provide.

For more information on Aquatic Reserves, visit our website: dxr.wa.gov/managed-lands/aquatic-reserves or call 360-902-1100.