**The Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve**

Beyond this viewing platform to the north lies the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve, designated in 2012 by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to preserve the unique habitats and species in the area. The reserve covers 23 square miles of state-owned aquatic lands—about the size of the island of Manhattan.

### Protecting Unique Habitats in the South Puget Sound
The Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve encompasses a variety of habitats at high bluffs to wetland and upland forests. In president features in the reserve, small “pocket” estuaries provide refuge and rearing areas for numerous fish and invertebrates. In the deep waters between the delta and Anderson Island, graying whales and pods of otters share the feeding grounds. Dungeness crabs and glassy sea squirts. Chinook salmon and pile perch, harbor seals, and river otters, and Dungeness crabs and glassy sea squirts.

Shallow subtidal and intertidal areas support delicate and a variety of plant and animal species. These habitats provide a permanent or migratory home to a range of birds, fish, mammals, and invertebrates, including Pigeon Guillemots and Red-throated Loons, Chinook salmon and pile perch, harbor seals, and river otters, and Dungeness crabs and glassy sea squirts.

### Connecting the Nisqually Delta and Reach
The Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve is part of an extensive network of protected areas in the Puget Sound region. The Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge and the Nisqually Reach Natural Area protect the Nisqually Delta and Reach, while the Nisqually Reach Natural Area also manages a variety of protected areas and preserves. Together, these protected areas and preserves add up to more than 28 square miles.

### Preserving a Unique Ecosystem
The Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve provides a critical habitat for a diverse array of wildlife, including eelgrass and a large variety of seaweed. These habitats provide a permanent or migratory home to a range of birds, fish, mammals, and invertebrates, including Pigeon Guillemots and Red-throated Loons, Chinook salmon and pile perch, harbor seals, and river otters, and Dungeness crabs and glassy sea squirts.

#### The Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve
- **Designated in:** 2012
- **Type:** Aquatic Reserve
- **Location:** South Puget Sound
- **Size:** 23 square miles
- **Features:** Small “pocket” estuaries, shallow subtidal and intertidal areas
- **Habitats:** Shallow subtidal and intertidal areas
- **Species:** Chinook salmon, harbor seals, river otters, Dungeness crabs, glassy sea squirts

#### The Nisqually Delta and Reach
- **Designated in:** 2012
- **Type:** Natural Area
- **Location:** South Puget Sound
- **Size:** 28 square miles
- **Features:** Small “pocket” estuaries, shallow subtidal and intertidal areas
- **Habitats:** Shallow subtidal and intertidal areas
- **Species:** Chinook salmon, harbor seals, river otters, Dungeness crabs, glassy sea squirts

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