



**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

**\$7,399,000 Capital
Request (DSRA & MTCA)**

Derelict structures, tire piles, and associated marine debris contain chemicals harmful to aquatic organisms that can leach into water and sediment for many years.

In 2023-25, DNR will remove 2,670 tires, 1,810 piling, 26,150 sq/ft of overwater structures, and approximately 420 tons of marine debris.

Links:

[**Puget Sound Tire Pile Removal StoryMap**](#)

[**Marine Debris Removal Program**](#)

Aquatic Derelict Structure Removal

The Department of Natural Resources will accelerate aquatic habitat restoration through continuation of the highly successful Derelict Structure Removal Program.

In 2023, the Legislature established the Derelict Structure Removal Program (DSRP) to remove or refurbish derelict structures in the aquatic environment (RCW 79.160). The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received funding to build a program and remove four priority structures, plus a proviso to remove marine tire piles. **In just two years, DNR will have successfully built a new program and fully removed two highly impactful derelict structures and two tire “reef” piles amounting to 2,670 tires, 1,810 piling and 26,150 sq/ft of overwater structure removed from the aquatic environment.**



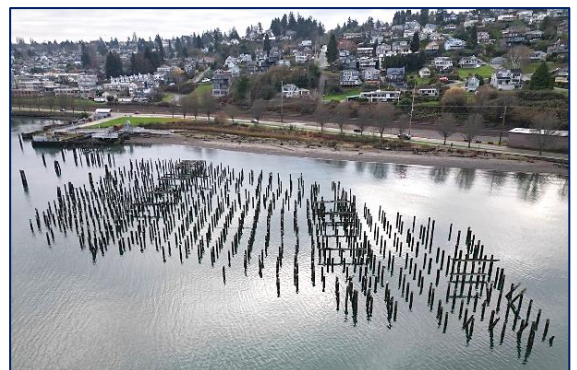
Deconstruction of the Former High Tides Seafood Pier in Neah Bay, WA

DNR is proposing to continue the critical work initiated in 2023 to:

- Complete removal of two of the four priority structures
- Continue to refurbish the historic Lakebay Marina
- Initiate new structure removals, including tire “reef” piles
- Fund the stewardship grant program established in RCW 79.160.070
- Remove marine debris from Puget Sound, a by-product of derelict structures

Derelict Structure Removals and Refurbishments

In the 2023-25 biennium, DNR will have fully removed two of the four priority structures, Dickman Mill and Former High Tides Seafood Pier. Next biennium, DNR plans to complete removals of the remaining two priority structures (Former Shannon Point Seafoods and Ballard Pier), continue work to refurbish the historic Lakebay Marina for recreational use, and initiate new projects. DNR plans to fully remove 1-2 additional structures as well as conduct planning and feasibility for 1-2 more complex projects to be completed in a future biennium.





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Tire Pile Removal

DNR piloted removal of tire piles at two locations, developing a framework for future removals and adding to best management practices for subtidal restoration and marine debris removal into the future. DNR plans to remove up to 4 additional tire piles in the 2025-27 biennium. Submerged tire piles have been identified as a major source of pollution, including heavy metals and rubber particulates.

Marine Debris Removal

Since 2010, the DNR has acted as the state's sole source for responding to the widespread impacts of diffuse marine debris and creosote that has broken free from derelict structures. **This program removes an average of 210 tons of marine debris each year with a program total of 2,916 tons removed since 2010, the equivalent of 16 x 747 airplanes.** This work was previously funded from DNR's aquatic restoration budget but is more appropriately tied to derelict structure removal, as the debris removed are primarily a by-product of derelict structures. This funding will also allow DNR to opportunistically remove small structures, such as docks or buildings, that have dislodged and become large marine debris that have historically been too large for this program to address.



Stewardship Grant

RCW 79.160.070 established a grant program for lessees of state-owned aquatic land who need financial assistance to improve structures that are failing or need replacement to meet habitat stewardship requirements. However, the grant program was not funded in the 23-25 biennium. The grant is a win-win for the state and for businesses, allowing stewardship measures to be implemented on a timely basis. DNR is requesting funding to allow implementation of the grant program.



Effectiveness Monitoring

To understand the benefit to our aquatic ecosystem, DNR's Aquatic Assessment and Monitoring Team (AAMT) conducts effectiveness monitoring for many aquatic restoration projects, including derelict structure and tire pile removal. This work is critical to understanding the impact and supporting the importance of dedicating resources to these projects.