

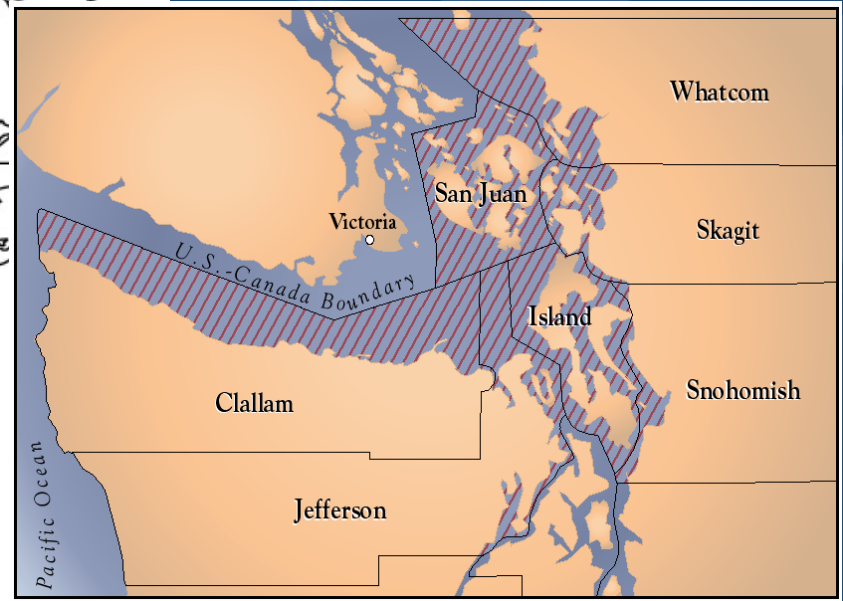
Northwest Straits

Marine Conservation Initiative



A Local Approach to Protecting and Restoring Marine Resources and Habitats

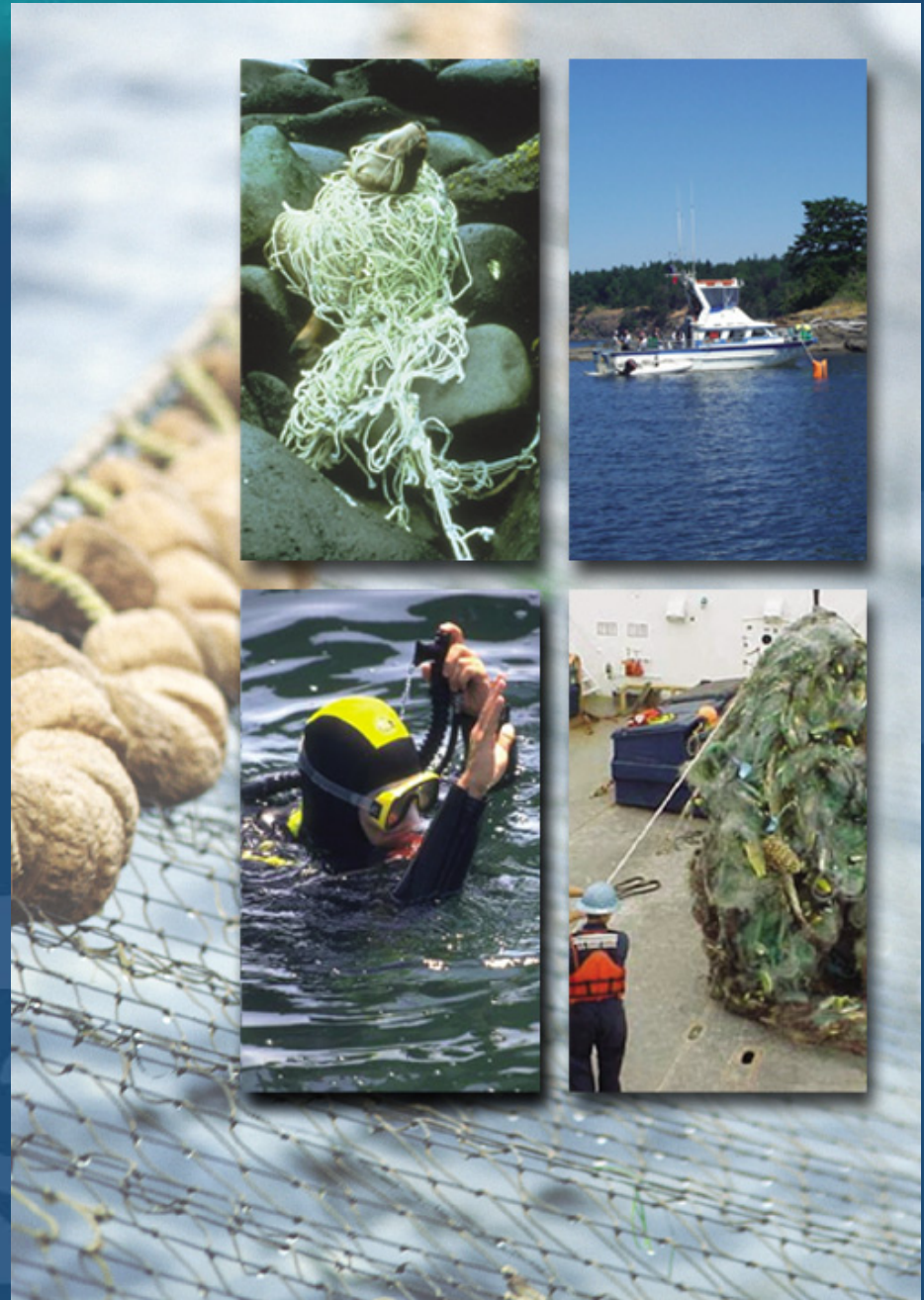
Where are the Northwest Straits?



Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative



What's the Problem?

Lost or abandoned:

- **Nets** – gill nets, trawl nets, purse seine nets, aquaculture materials
- **Pots/Traps** - Crab & Shrimp
- **Other** – lines, jigs, flashers, weights, hooks, trawl doors, downrigger wire and lead balls



What's the Problem?



Long-lasting Marine Debris

- Synthetic materials - since the 1940s
- Very slow decomposition – decades to hundreds of years

Hazards of Derelict Fishing Gear

- **Entangle** divers and swimmers;
- **Trap** and wound or kill fish, shellfish, birds and marine mammals;
- **Degrade** marine ecosystems and sensitive habitats;
- **Damage** boat propellers and rudders.



How Much Derelict Fishing Gear is Out There?



- WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife Estimates: 117,000 items weighing 2.6 million lbs in Puget Sound



- Puget Sound gillnet fleet reports 10-20% annual loss of gear - equal to about 300 full size gillnets/year over the last 30 years

Project Goals



- Remove lost and abandoned gear
- Help restore Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits
- Improve public safety
- Assist species recovery

Project Success Requires:

Citizens, government organizations and private businesses with an interest in healthy marine life working together.

2002 Pilot Project

Funded by NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP) and the Northwest Straits Commission

- Develop and test removal protocols
- Create database of known locations
- Establish public reporting system
 - Hotline
 - Web site
- Educate and involve interested public



What's Being Done?

Locating & Reporting

Verifying & Prioritizing

Removing

Returning to owner,
Recycling & Disposing

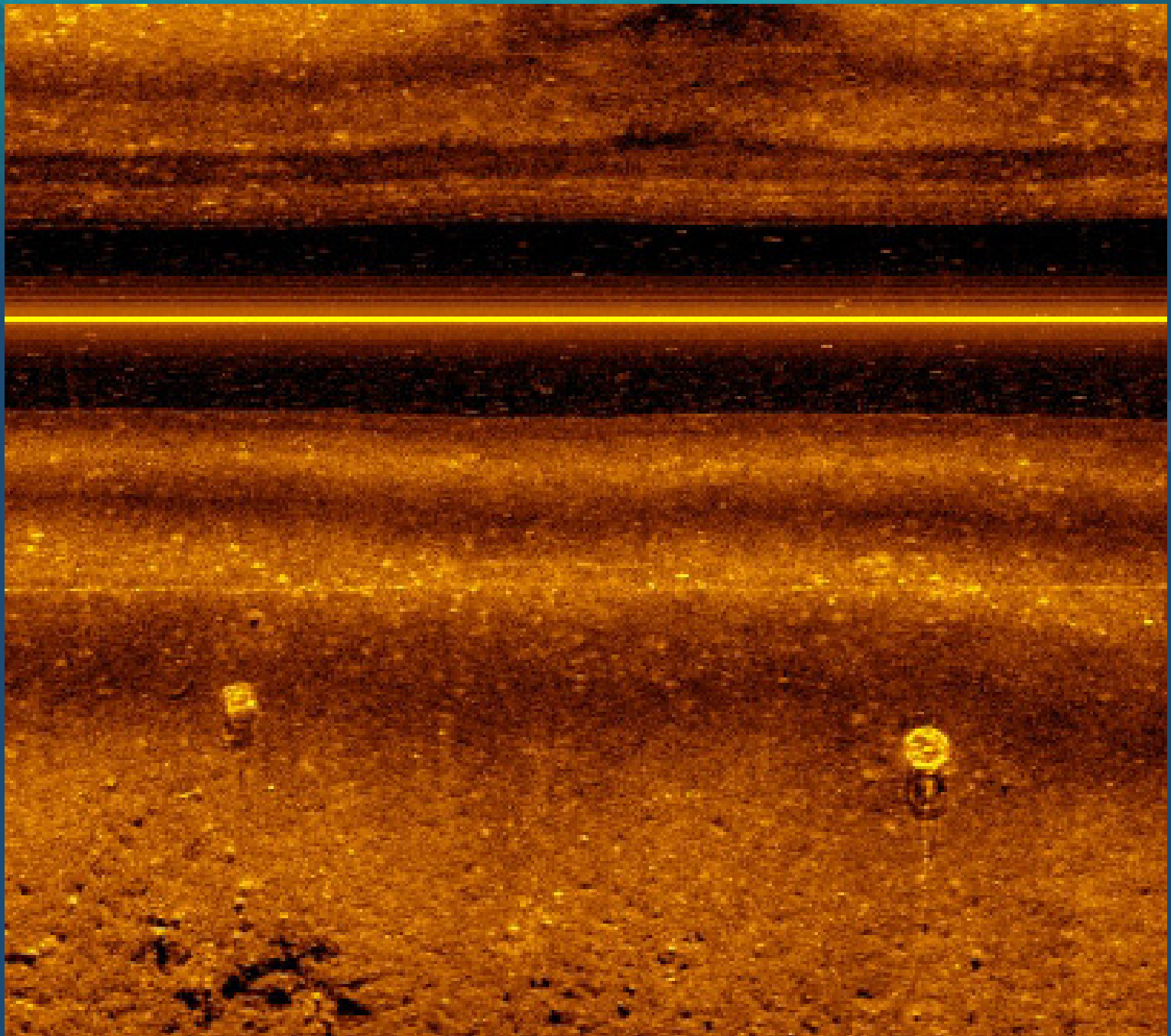


What's Being Done?

Locating & Reporting

- Reporting Hotline: 1-800-477-6224
- Web site:
www.wa.gov/wdfw/fish/derelict
- Recreational divers are *strongly cautioned* to avoid the gear because of the inherent dangers.



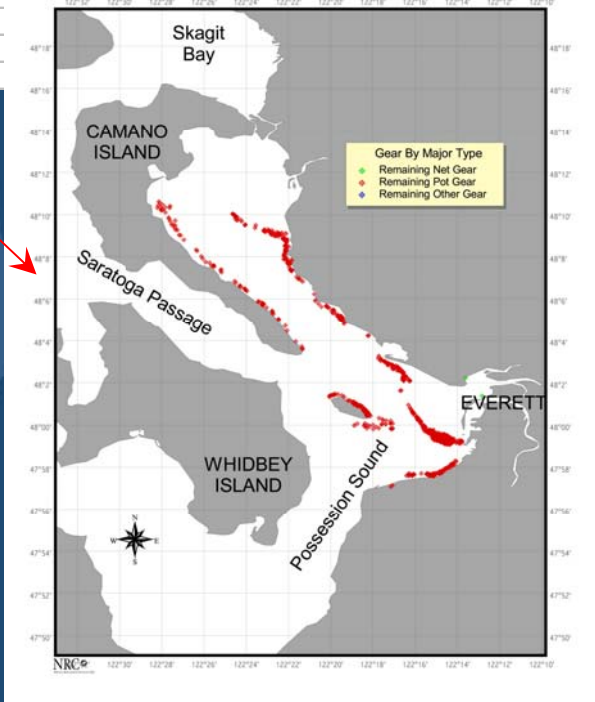


Build Database

GEAR_TYPE	LATDEG	LATMIN	LONGDEG	LONGMIN	DEPTH	BOTTOMTYPE	EXPOSURE	LETHALITY	DISPOSITON
GILL NET	48	35.182	123	11.944	55	BEDROCK WALL, BOULD.	LOW	LOW	REMAINING
GILL NET	47	36.69	122	28.66	50	BEDROCK, BOULDERS	LOW	MODERATE	REMAINING
GILL NET	47	31.72	122	29.5	55	CONCRETE OVER GRAVEL	LOW	LOW	REMAINING
PURSE SEINE	47	23.25	122	32.92	60	WRECK OVER SAND	LOW	HIGH	REMOVED
GILL NET	47	40.338	122	25.311	67	WRECK-GRAVEL BARGE	MODERATE	HIGH	REMOVED
GILL NET	48	39.314	122	39.185	100	BEDROCK AND BOULDERS	MODERATE	UNKNOWN	REMAINING
GILL NET	48	38.334	122	36.445	49	BOULDERS, COBBLE	MODERATE	UNKNOWN	REMAINING
GILL NET	48	56.29	122	57.299		BOULDERS, COBBLE	MODERATE	HIGH	REMAINING
NET PEN	47	35.18	122	32.78	50	GRAVEL, COBBLE	LOW	LOW	REMAINING
GILL NET	47	34.77	122	32.01	35	ROCKY REEF	LOW	MODERATE	REMAINING
PURSE SEINE	48	25	123	50	40	ROCKY REEF			REMAINING
GILL NET	48	24.823	122	58.032	49	COBBLE-BOULDER	LOW	MODERATE	REMAINING
GILL NET	48	27	122	43	50	ROCKY REEF	MODERATE	MODE	REMAINING
GILL NET	48	56.34	122	58.25	156			HIGH	
CRAB POT	48	56.34	122	58.25	156				
CRAB POT	48	47.79	122	43.57	66				
CRAB POT	47	24.05	122	55.7	42				

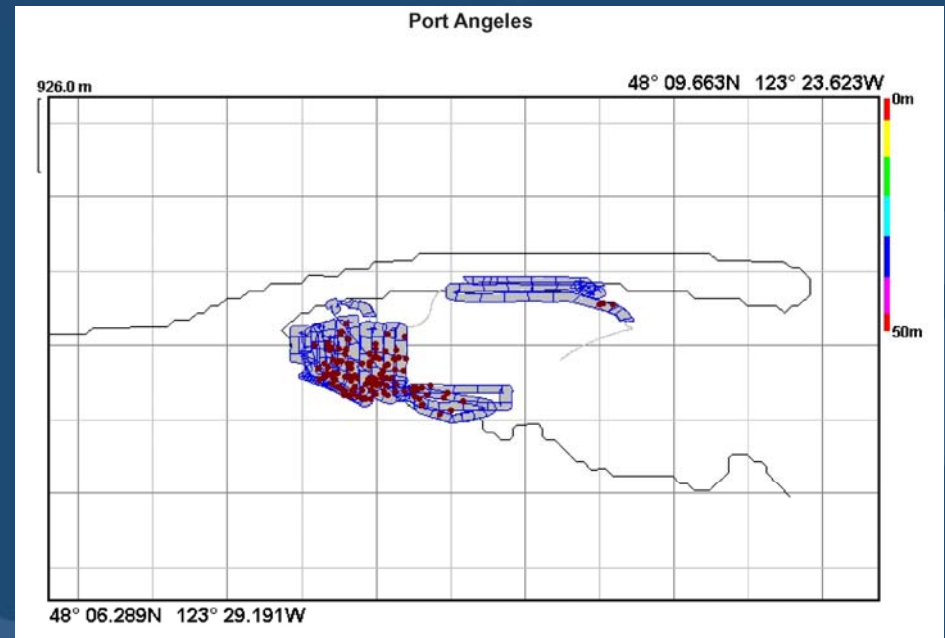
Current derelict gear database contains over 2,500 items of known derelict gear – GPS locations are noted where known, along with any other information

All Remaining Derelict Gear Sites by Major Gear Type in Puget Sound, WA - August, 2004
Source: NWSA Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Program



Verifying & Prioritizing

- Database of reported gear
 - Verification report
 - Pre-removal survey
 - Post-removal reporting
- Prioritize removal efforts
 - Threats to public safety
 - Threats to marine resources
 - Hazards to navigation



Removing

- Removal & Disposal Plan required
- Commercial divers/vessels ONLY for most submerged gear
- Removal operations
 - Gather
 - Cut and bundle
 - Float



Returning to owner, Recycling & Disposing

- Return to owner – back to work as harvest equipment
- Recycling - especially metal crab pots
- Disposal - landfill



Documenting the Impacts of Derelict Fishing Gear that can be Mitigated by Removal



Using a science based approach, impact data is being collected during removal operations

Post-removal monitoring will be conducted to assess the recovery of species and habitats

What's Been Accomplished So Far?

Documenting the Magnitude of the Problem



Field Operations Completed to Date

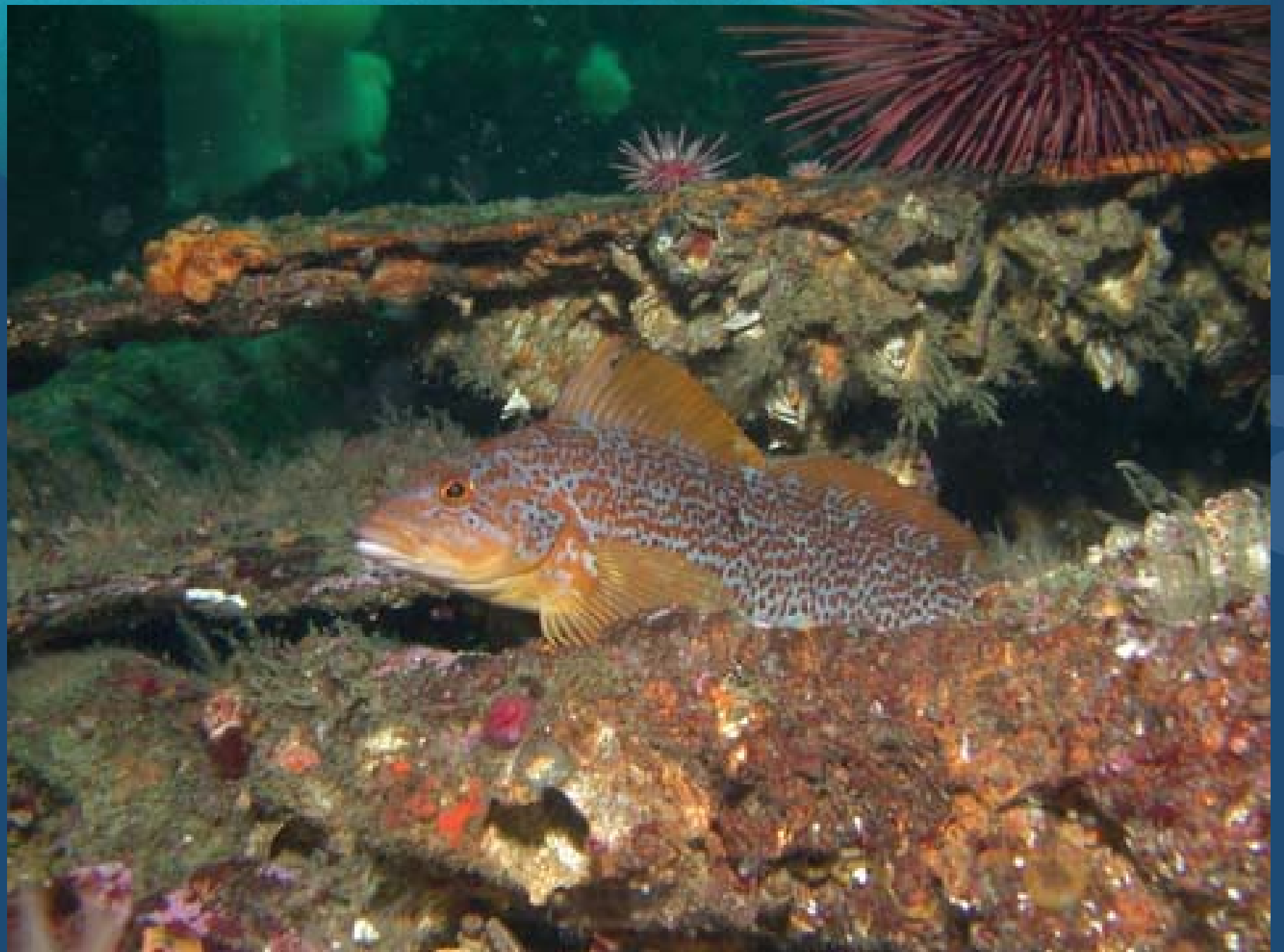
- 13 removal operations with over 93 days of effort completed
- 740 derelict crab, shrimp and octopus pots/traps removed
- 260 gillnets removed covering over 72 acres
- 3 other large nets removed totaling 18,000 lbs.



Observed Entanglement/ Entrapment Impacts

- 161 salmon
- 337 other fish
- 1,165 crab
- 90 seabirds
- 4 marine mammals





Many Partner Agencies & Organizations

Principals:

Northwest Straits Commission

Northwest Straits Foundation

7 Marine Resources Committees –

Clallam

Island

Jefferson

San Juan

Skagit

Snohomish

Whatcom

Natural Resources Consultants, Inc.

Partners:

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.

WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

WA Department of Natural Resources

Washington Department of Ecology

Washington Sea Grant Program

Puget Sound Action Team

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Stillaguamish Tribe

Tulalip Tribes

U.S. Navy

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

U. S. Coast Guard

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

Commercial fishing & diving companies

Sport dive clubs

Private foundations

Coastal America Award



Recognizing outstanding partnership efforts to protect, preserve, and restore coastal resources

2005 NOAA Grant

- Export project around country
- Train agencies and organizations



For more information

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