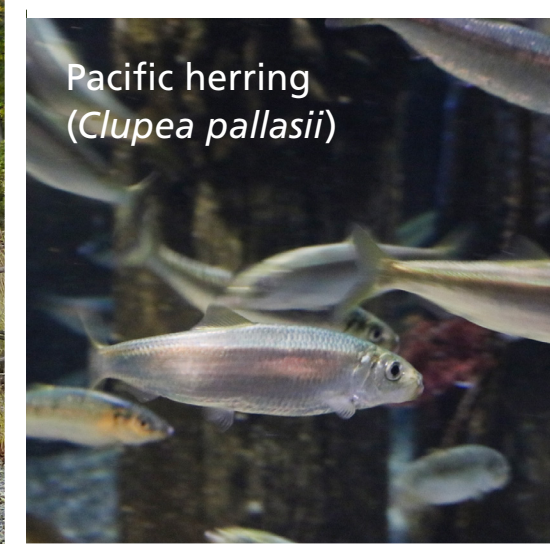


▼ You may be lucky enough to spot orcas traveling offshore. The orca pods passing by are likely the Southern Resident Stock. These Northwest icons favor Chinook salmon. Atop the food chain, a primary threat is seaborne toxics accumulating in their blubber.

To learn more about Aquatic Reserves, visit our website: dnr.wa.gov/managed-lands/aquatic-reserves or call 360-902-1100

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 depend upon them for food. Pacific herring feed on plankton and in turn are devoured by larger fishes, birds and marine mammals. Surf Scoters and other seabirds dive up to 30 feet to gobble up herring eggs attached to underwater vegetation. Marine mammals like Harbor seals and the Dall's porpoise also feed directly on herring. Even top predators like orcas depend on the nutrients herring provide.



▲ **A Citizen Stewardship Committee organizes volunteer surveys of beach animals and plants at Cherry Point. The committee also works to educate others about nearshore ecology, the Aquatic Reserve's condition, and planning issues that affect the Reserve.**

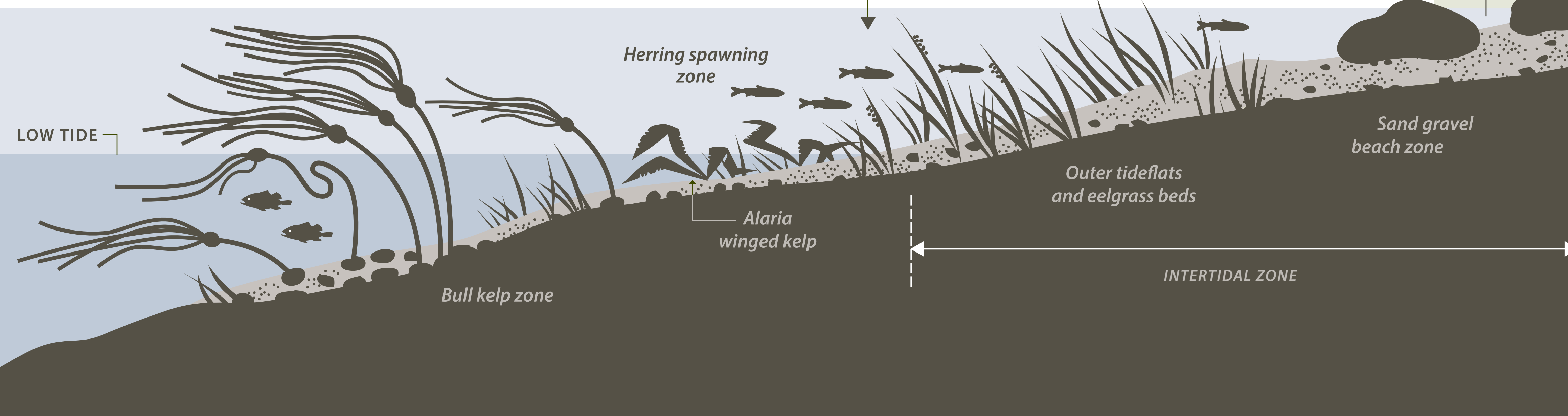
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AQUATIC RESERVE CITIZEN COMMITTEES, VISIT: AQUATICRESERVES.ORG



► Surf smelt spawn in the intertidal zone on mixed sand and gravel beaches. Shoreline armoring and development can impact important surf smelt spawning habitat. Herring spawn mostly in nearshore underwater vegetation.

HIGH TIDE

LOW TIDE



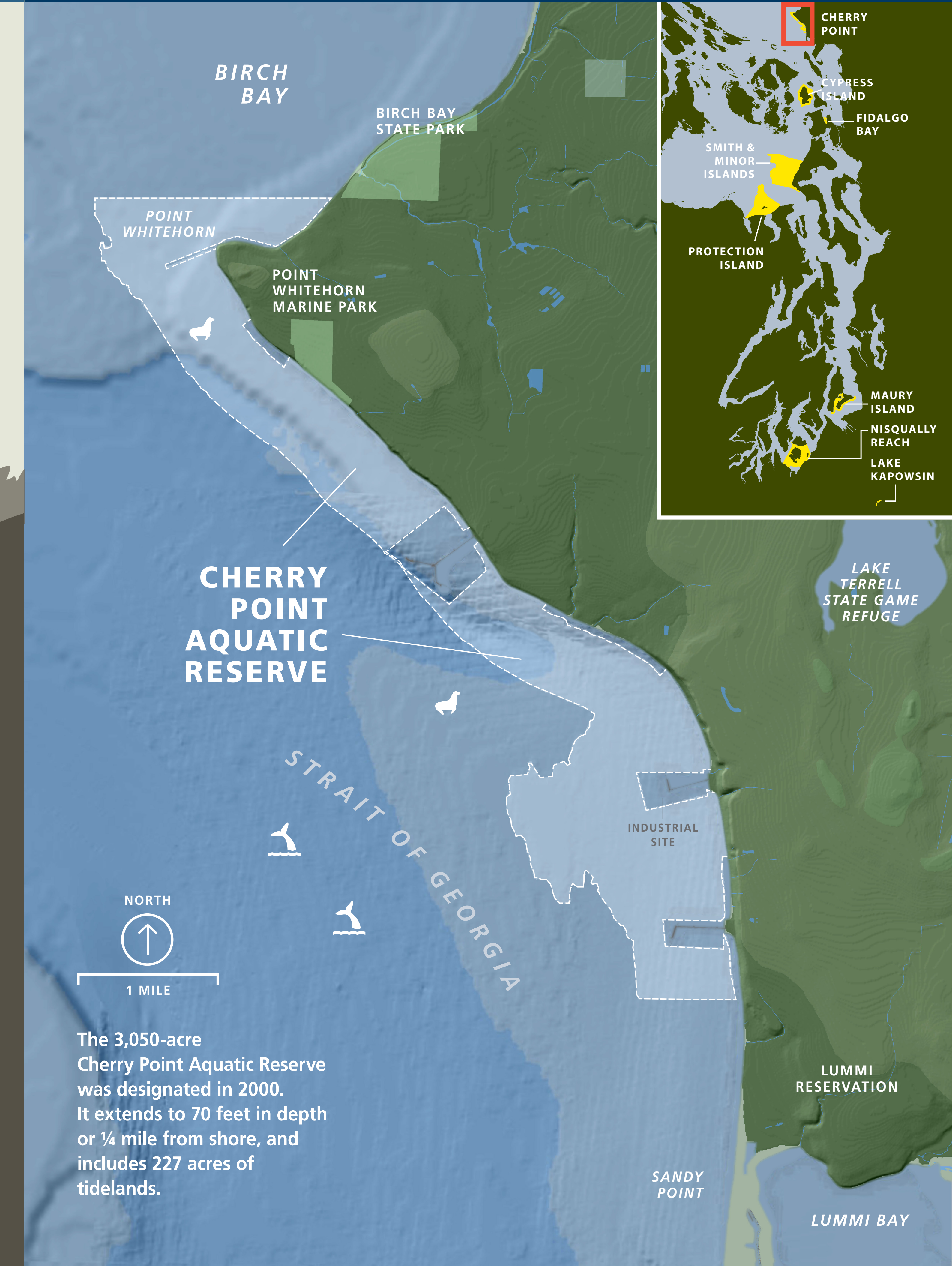
THE AQUATIC RESERVES PROGRAM

Washington State's Aquatic Reserve Program protects important and unique freshwater and marine habitats. Reserves are managed to:

- Conserve and enhance native habitats
- Protect and restore functions and natural processes of the shoreline and intertidal zones
- Promote stewardship of aquatic habitats and species through education and outreach in collaboration with resource managers, stakeholders and citizen scientists

Surf smelt spawning zone

▲ The shorelines of Cherry Point are constantly in motion. Naturally-eroding bluffs feed new sediment to beaches. Intense waves and winds shift sediment around the base of the bluffs and along the beach. Trees and overhanging plants provide nutrients and safe haven to aquatic species. These beaches also support spawning surf smelt, a small fish that provides important food for salmon, other fishes and seabirds.



The 3,050-acre Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve was designated in 2000. It extends to 70 feet in depth or ¼ mile from shore, and includes 227 acres of tidelands.