

Navigating the Salish Sea

Swarmin' Steamers

New entrepreneurs brought logging, lumber mills, and agriculture to the area. Beget the Mosquito Fleet – a system of ferries servicing Kitsap communities.

The Mosquito Fleet ran from the 1850s to 1930s and consisted of steamers of all types and sizes - estimates of up to 2,500 ships! The fleets ran people, mail, machinery, timber, and other essentials between various ports. Each community had a pier or float stop – which served as the connection to the larger community. The Fleet ultimately fell out of favor in the 1930's due to competition from road and rail transportation.



As automobiles became the favored form of transportation, automobile ferry service began in 1925. Harper was one of the first auto piers built on Puget Sound. Service was initially between Harper and West Seattle – but later expanded to include Seattle and Vashon. Photo: Yukon Harbor Historical Society.



The sign above Harper Pier welcomed visitors to Harper, a gateway to the Olympics. Photo: Yukon Harbor Historical Society.

A Maritime Highway

Puget Sound is home to many bustling commercial shipping ports, such as Seattle, Tacoma, and Everett. Ferry boats, cruise ships, and recreational boats all contribute to traffic in the Sound.

To keep order and avoid collisions, Puget Sound has a Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) run by the US Coast Guard that operates similar to air traffic controllers. VTS monitors over 230,000 vessel movements a year – which translates to 635 a day! (75% are ferries)

How is traffic managed?



Shipping lanes operate similar to our highways. There are designated shipping lanes (1/2-mile-wide!) with northbound traffic traveling in the east lane and southbound traffic in the west lane. Yield to commercial ships as they always have the right of way.

Washington Water Trails

A system for small craft adventures

Washington Water Trails Association (WWTA), works to advocate for public access to Washington's shorelines for human-powered watercrafts and stewardship of those waterways.

The Kitsap Peninsula Water Trail (KPNWT) is designated as part of the National Water Trails System – and provides over 350 miles of shoreline for a variety of water related activities, such as kayaking and paddle boarding!

Ready, Set, Paddle!

Tips for a fun and safe trip

- Always wear a life jacket and other protective equipment
- Plan your route, stick to it, and tell someone on shore of your plans
- Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly
- Start small and work up to larger paddles
- Check your equipment before your trip
- Be on the lookout for wildlife and enjoy them from a safe distance

Be sure to check tides and currents before your trip. Scan below!



Meet the Locals!

Many notable species can be found on the waters and shores of Harper Estuary. Viewing these animals in their habitat is one of the many privileges of living near Puget Sound. Photos courtesy of Bob Griel. (*Clockwise from left: Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Sea Otter*).



MAP AREA IDENTIFIER

Letter = Segment
 A = Port Gamble to Foulweather Bluff
 B = Bainbridge Island (see reverse side)
 C = Foulweather Bluff to Kingston
 D = Kingston to Keyport
 E = Keyport to Poulsbo
 F = Brownsville to Bremerton
 G = Dyes Inlet
 H = Sinclair Inlet
 I = Manchester area
 J = Belfair to Dewatto
 K = Dewatto to Seabeck
 L = Seabeck to Hood Canal Bridge
 note: RR = restroom, pkg=parking

Number Identifier :Number = miles from beginning of segment i.e., C3 - Norwegian Park | Section C (Foulweather Bluff) 3 miles from Foulweather Bluff (start of segment)

