
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND NEARSHORE HABITAT
CHARACTERIZATION & ASSESSMENT,
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PRIORITIZATION,
AND MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS

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Preface

The Bainbridge Island Nearshore Assessment was funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) as part of its mission to support habitat protection and restoration projects. This project was initiated, in part, as a result of the recent listing of Puget Sound Chinook salmon as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act and other proposed listings for Puget Sound marine species. The factors contributing to the decline of these species are complex and include, among other factors, the loss and modification of habitat caused by human activities across the region. Some of the early research suggests that the ecological functions and processes which form the habitat that support those species need to be maintained and protected in order to sustain natural populations. While Bainbridge Island does not naturally support freshwater use by Chinook salmon, the City does include approximately 53 miles of saltwater shoreline which plays a critical role in the life-cycle of Puget Sound Chinook and other species of concern. The overarching goal of this project and the City’s Salmon Recovery and Conservation Strategy is to collect and employ critical information to ensure that Bainbridge Island provides and maintains a healthy and functional ecosystem that contributes to sustainable salmonid populations within the region.

The goals of the Nearshore Assessment are to 1) conduct a baseline characterization of the Bainbridge Island nearshore environment and assess its ecological health and function, 2) identify restoration and conservation opportunities and develop a strategy for ranking and prioritizing opportunities, and 3) develop a management framework based on the functions and processes of nearshore ecology. The findings of the project will be used by the City and the Bainbridge Island community to propose, pursue, and make informed decisions about nearshore conservation and restoration opportunities. The knowledge gathered regarding management of nearshore resources will also be integrated into the City’s regulations that govern the development and use of the nearshore.

Management of the Bainbridge Island Nearshore Assessment was provided by the City of Bainbridge Island (COBI) with technical review and support provided by technical representatives of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the City’s Environmental Technical Advisory Committee.

Libby Hudson – Project Manager
Peter Namtvedt Best – Editor

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Acronyms

BAS	best available science
CF	controlling factor
COBI	City of Bainbridge Island
EF	ecological function
GIS	geographical information system
IBI	index of biological integrity
MA	management area
OHWM	ordinary high-water mark
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WDOE	Washington State Department of Ecology
WRIA	water resource inventory area
TIA	total impervious area

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