

**Regulatory and Design Considerations from  
*Protecting Nearshore Habitat and Functions in Puget Sound, An Interim Guide*  
Marine Critical Areas Scoping Meeting – 2/19/2008**

**Kelp and Eelgrass – Page II- 38**

- Identify all marine vegetation within intertidal and subtidal zones and protect them through appropriate shoreline designation and SMP regulations
- Require survey of intertidal and shallow subtidal areas prior to permitting any structures or activities that could impact existing beds
- Prohibit placement of overwater structures over marine vegetation
- Require structure designs that minimize shading and disturbance of the substrate including from prop wash
- Prohibit grounding of floats and rafts
- Avoid placement of shoreline armor or other structures that may result in downcutting of the beach, substrate change, or alteration of shoreline physical processes

**Forage Fish – page II - 28**

- Designate inventoried spawning areas as natural or conservancy shorelines
- Avoid and minimize new over-water structures in areas inventoried as forage fish spawning
- Minimize displacement of beach area by pilings
- Prohibit grounding of floats and rafts on the beach
- Promote overwater structure designs that result in improved light levels (e.g., minimize width, use grating, orient north-south to minimize shading resulting from new and rebuilt structures
- Minimize the footprint and number of pilings associated with overwater structures and do not allow use of treated wood
- Place structures to perpendicularly span the shoreline spawning habitat zone
- Do not allow construction activity during egg deposition and incubation periods

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**Bluffs and Beaches – page 11 -15**

Identify feeder bluffs and protect them (and their functions) through appropriate shoreline designation and SMP regulations

- Identify intact beaches and protect them through appropriate shoreline designation and SMP regulations
- Avoid and minimize shoreline armoring projects, and require geotechnical assessments, reviewed by a qualified third party, to evaluate problems and analyze potential solutions, including the use of alternative designs
- Require proposed bulkhead rebuild projects to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative designs (e.g., soft-shore approaches) as opposed to in-kind replacement
- Promote retaining or establishing marine riparian vegetation including large trees by requiring a vegetation conservation plan for activities impacting marine riparian vegetation
- If tree removal is unavoidable, leave felled trees or create snags for wildlife habitat
- Avoid placement of shoreline armoring or other structures near the beach, especially waterward of OHWM
- Minimize displacement of beach area by pilings or other structures. Where such structures are unavoidably necessary, prohibit the use of treated wood in favor of concrete, steel, or recycled plastic
- Prohibit grounding of floats, rafts, docks and vessels

**Marine Riparian Vegetation – Page II - 46**

- Require site surveys of existing conditions including vegetation function analysis
- Avoid and minimize area disturbed during nearshore construction activities by establishing standards for equipment use within riparian areas, and require replacement of damaged vegetation with native species, including long term maintenance provisions
- Identify marine riparian protection areas that support existing functions through no-touch buffers in undeveloped areas and enhancement and mitigation requirements related to expansions or redevelopment of developed areas
- Require development of vegetation conservation plans, including replanting and maintenance standards focused on native species, for any project that impacts marine riparian vegetation

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**Juvenile Salmonids – Page II - 53**

- Provide protected shallow water migration corridors, especially between estuaries and marine waters through shoreline designations
- Minimize and limit over-water structures and improve light conditions under these structures through design specifications (width, grating, etc.) Minimize pilings, avoid use of treated wood, and eliminate grounding of boats and structures
- Protect marine riparian areas and require mitigation for lost habitat elements such as trees, logs, and boulders
- Protect all native marine vegetation, including kelp, eelgrass, and wetland plants
- Avoid and minimize shoreline armoring projects

**Where to Learn More**

*Protecting Nearshore Habitat and Functions in Puget Sound, An Interim Guide*, October, 2007, EnviroVision, Herrera Environmental, and Aquatic Habitat Working Group is available at:  
[http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/nearshore\\_guidelines/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/nearshore_guidelines/)  
or from the City Webpage: [www.ci.bainbridge-is.wa.us](http://www.ci.bainbridge-is.wa.us)  
or at the Bainbridge Library on the City reference shelf  
or at City Hall – Planning front counter.