

Focus Puget Sound

Fidalgo & Padilla Bays



WASHINGTON STATE
Department of Ecology

Cleanups Support Other Waterfront Opportunities

The Anacortes waterfront is a treasure, serving local and regional needs for business and industry, recreation, housing and cultural activities. The PUGET SOUND INITIATIVE is focusing energy and resources on cleaning up contaminated waterfront sites. In Anacortes, local, state and federal agencies, local Native American tribes, businesses and property owners are working to restore the waterfront – cleaning up several old industrial sites and restoring waterfront areas for fish, animals and people. This unique, baywide collaboration means more cleanups and restoration are happening faster. Important waterfront uses – shipbuilding, marinas, parks, recreation, housing, fishing, cultural uses and others – can thrive in a revitalized and healthy waterfront environment.

The action is in the bays – Fidalgo and Padilla Bays. The map on the right highlights several ongoing activities, all aimed at making the area, and Puget Sound, healthier. Read on, and learn how you can be part of renewing the Anacortes waterfront!



Waterfront industry plays a major role in Anacortes history, and today anchors the local economy. As waterfront sites are cleaned up and restored, marine industries can prosper.



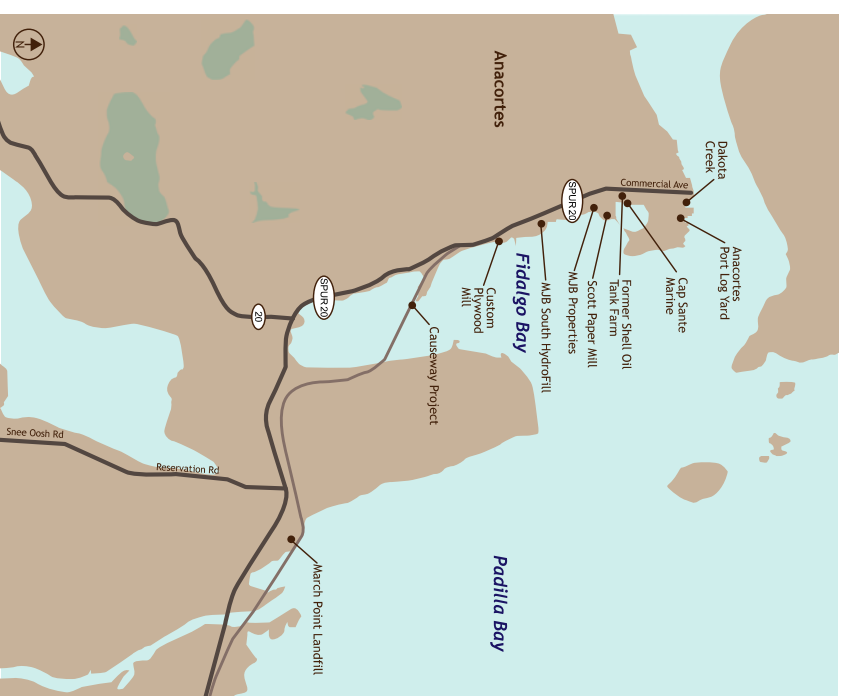
People who use the waterfront, fish or forage in the bays and interact with the waterfront environment, are benefiting as toxics, debris and sources of contamination are removed from the waterfront. Improving human health is a major goal of the Puget Sound Initiative.



Historically, fish, birds and wildlife thrived in Fidalgo and Padilla Bays. By cleaning up pollution and improving habitat in the water and on the shorelines, healthy fish and wildlife populations are benefiting – on the Anacortes waterfront and across the Sound.



Regionally, people are increasingly drawn to the gorgeous natural resources of the Anacortes area to live, work and play. Waterfront cleanups and restoration are opening up opportunities for housing, recreation and an overall great quality of life.



Fidalgo / Padilla Bays

Site By Site

See The Waterfront Get Better



Dakota Creek

In 2008, the Port's Dakota Creek Shipyard underwent a major redevelopment. Historical contamination resulting from use of the site for bulk fuel storage, shipbuilding and other industrial uses was cleaned up as part of the redevelopment. Removal of contaminated sediments allowed the shipyard's basin to be deepened. Additionally, contaminated soil will be removed from the upland areas of the site.



Anacortes Port Log Yard

Historically, part of the Port's Pier 2 was used for log exporting. Hauling and sorting of the logs resulted in deposition of wood debris in the tidal areas adjacent to the pier. As it has decomposed over time, the wood debris has degraded marine habitat. Further investigation will be conducted to determine the level of cleanup needed.



Cap Sante Marine

Interim action cleanup at the former Cap Sante Marine site was completed in May 2008 as part of the Port's redevelopment of Cap Sante Boat Haven. Remediation removed about 10,000 cubic yards of soil that had been contaminated by leaking gasoline and diesel tanks. As part of the cleanup, shoreline restoration enhanced marine habitat and public access within the marina. The remediated site area currently is home to Anthony's restaurant and summer nighttime concerts.



Former Shell Oil Tank Farm

The former Shell Oil Tank Farm operated for many years near the historical shoreline of Fidalgo Bay. As a result, site soils and groundwater were impacted by petroleum-related contaminants. Further investigation will identify the extent of site contamination and alternatives for cleanup. In winter 2007, an interim cleanup action was completed to allow for a city storm



Scott Paper Mill

drain to be rerouted through the site. The rerouted drain line helps reduce the potential for stormwater to contaminate Fidalgo Bay. Site remediation will begin in fall 2014.



Custom Plywood Mill

Cleanup is underway on another old mill, the Custom Plywood Mill site in the central part of the bay. Upland cleanup at the site 2011. An interim action for the Phase 2 in-water portion was completed in October 2013.



March Point Landfill

The March Point Landfill, formerly known as the Whitmarsh Landfill, on the southern part of Padilla Bay, next to Swinomish Tribal lands, is currently under investigation to determine whether contamination in the old landfill materials is a risk in the uplands and to the bay. The RI/FS Report should be available in late 2014.



Baywide Sediment Study

Ecology conducted a baywide study of sediment contamination in 2007 to support area cleanups. Results of the study are available on the Ecology web site.



The Enchantress

The Enchantress was an abandoned tugboat that had sunk and deteriorated in Fidalgo Bay. The remains of the tug and the sunken debris surrounding the wreck acted to suppress marine habitat. The tug was removed in September 2008 to promote a healthier marine environment and prevent release of other contaminants.



Causeway Project

The old causeway crossing Fidalgo Bay, which holds the City's Tommy Thompson trail, was built with creosote pilings. The Samish Nation completed a study in 2008 to study possible contamination, and evaluate fish, shellfish, and vegetation in the area. Results of this study revealed the presence of contamination in the sediments associated with the creosote pilings.

Anacortes is your community, and you can help with this waterfront initiative. We invite you to:

Contact us for more information

Washington State
Department of Ecology
Arlanne Fernandez
(360) 407-7209
Afer461@ecy.wa.gov
Look for the blue PUGET SOUND
INITIATIVE cover.

Visit the Ecology web site
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cleanup.html

