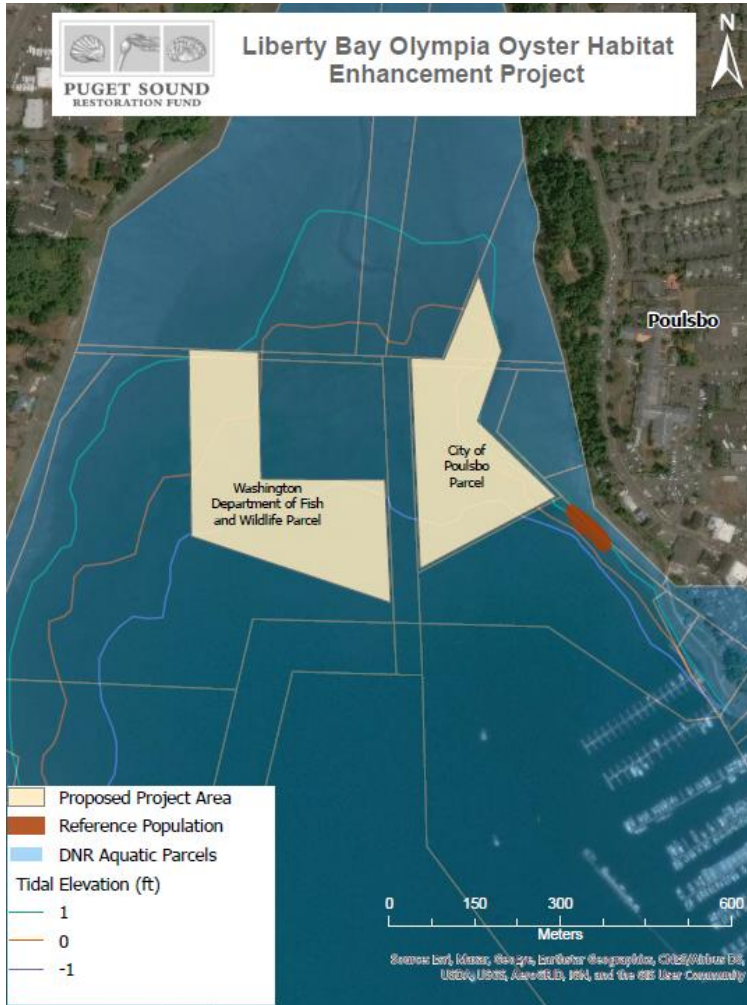


Liberty Bay
Native Oyster Shell Enhancement Project - September 21-25, 2020
Puget Sound Restoration Fund



Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) is partnering with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the City of Poulsbo to complete a 15-acre native oyster enhancement project September 21-25 in Liberty Bay near the city of Poulsbo's Legion Park in the ancestral homelands of the Suquamish Tribe. Other partners and funders include CCA Washington, Elliott's Oyster House, and Confluence Environmental. (Note: Possible back-up dates are October 5-9 or October 19-23.)

The purpose of this effort is to restore habitat for the Olympia oyster (*Ostrea lurida*), Washington's only native oyster species. To enhance the substrate, we intend to spread 1,500 cubic yards of Pacific oyster shell on State and City of Poulsbo tidelands. The shell will serve as a hard surface for Olympia oyster larvae in the water column to settle on, thus expanding the population. Olympia oysters are present throughout Puget Sound, but historic populations were

much larger than those present today. Liberty Bay is a priority location for the recovery of our native oyster.

This project marks the final stretch of an ambitious 10-year goal to collaboratively restore 100 acres of oyster settlement habitat by 2020. When we set the 100-acre goal in 2010, WDFW estimated there were only 150 acres of dense, core native oyster populations remaining in Puget Sound, compared to 10,000-20,000 acres historically. We gratefully salute the many tideland owners, partners, and funders for embracing and powering a vision of restored native oyster beds. Dense Olympia oyster populations provide natural filtration and structured intertidal habitat that supports multiple other species.

A tugboat and barge loaded with shell will be maneuvering over the tidelands in Liberty Bay. PSRF will spread the shell using pumped seawater to sluice the material from the barge onto the tidelands during daylight hours.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Brian Allen, brian@restorationfund.org or (206) 780-6947.