

FACT SHEET



Photo: Mackaye Harbor boat launch - Coastal Geologic Services

Mackaye Harbor Shoreline Restoration

The Mackaye Harbor shoreline restoration project will remove all shoreline armor from beach and bank left of the boat launch, and all beach and bank armor on private property right of the boat launch. This is the only shoreline armor on this 0.60 mile-long beach. This will restore spawning habitat for surf smelt and sand lance; both forage fish are important prey to salmon. The restoration project is designed and construction funded. Restoration will occur in 2022.

Why is shoreline armor harmful?

Shoreline armor prevents banks from eroding. Eroding shorelines “feed” the beach with sand and gravel, necessary to maintain the beach and beach habitat. When armor is added, beaches coarsen and forage fish can no longer find a place to spawn.

Why is this project important?

This project was a high priority for restoration, as determined by several technical studies. San Juan County Environmental Resources has a list of restoration projects on County shoreline properties, to help recover forage fish habitat. The County invests in and protects the San Juan Islands natural resources.

Contact For More Information:

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