

WHY CARE ABOUT EELGRASS?

When boating in the San Juans, you are surrounded by marine creatures like birds, seals, porpoise, and whales. A bounty of life lies beneath the surface as well where kelp forests and eelgrass prairies are teeming with activity.

Eelgrass provides nursery habitat, food, and shelter for Dungeness crab, juvenile salmon, and salmon prey like sand lance, surf smelt and Pacific herring. Herring also spawn their eggs on eelgrass blades. Salmon depend on eelgrass for refuge during their migration between salt and freshwater. The survival of our local endangered Orca whales is dependent on healthy salmon populations.

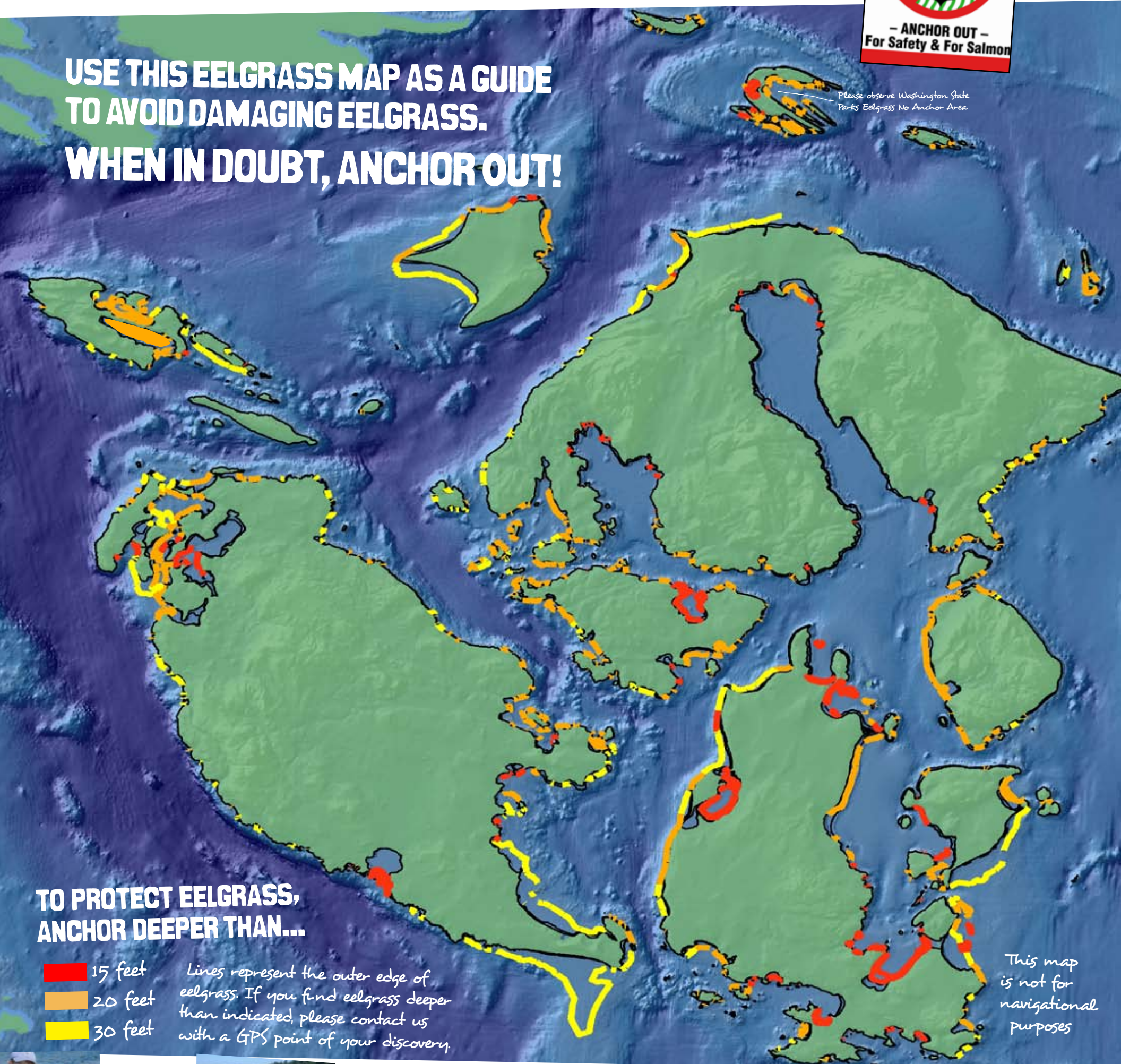
These flowering marine plants play an important role in protecting shorelines by trapping sediment and absorbing wave energy to offset erosion. In Washington State eelgrass is classified as a priority habitat and is protected under a "No Net Loss" policy. Help protect this vital marine resource.

BE A BOATER WHO CARES

- ▶ Anchor out of eelgrass.
- ▶ Place Mooring buoy out of eelgrass or use eelgrass friendly buoy designs.
- ▶ Place docks and other overwater structures away from eelgrass.



USE THIS EELGRASS MAP AS A GUIDE TO AVOID DAMAGING EELGRASS. WHEN IN DOUBT, ANCHOR OUT!



TO PROTECT EELGRASS, ANCHOR DEEPER THAN...

- 15 feet
- 20 feet
- 30 feet

Lines represent the outer edge of eelgrass. If you find eelgrass deeper than indicated, please contact us with a GPS point of your discovery.

This map is not for navigational purposes



Eelgrass Protection Program funded by The Russell Family Foundation, The Bullitt Foundation, The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board and The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The mission of FRIENDS of the San Juans is to protect the land, water, sea and livability of the San Juan Islands through science, education, policy, law and citizen action.

FRIENDS of the San Juans
PO Box 1344 Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360.378.2319 www.sanjuans.org

