

# ANCHOR OUT OF EELGRASS TO PROTECT HERRING, SALMON, AND ORCA



**Help protect salmon, orca, and the beautiful San Juan Islands by anchoring out of sensitive eelgrass.**

The San Juan Islands are an internationally acclaimed boating destination. Stunning landscapes and a rich marine environment provide extensive recreational opportunities such as wildlife viewing, fishing and crabbing.

Sensitive eelgrass habitats are nurseries for juvenile Chinook salmon as well as spawning areas for Pacific herring, small schooling fish that support seabirds, big fish, and marine mammals.

Eelgrass damaged by boat anchors can take years to recover. To help salmon and the Southern Resident orcas, **anchor out** in waters deeper than the eelgrass or use a mooring buoy.

Use the information in this boater guide to plan ahead and ensure your boating experience in the San Juan Islands is safe and enjoyable for people and nature!

## **Ways for boaters to protect eelgrass and support marine food webs:**

- Anchor out of eelgrass.
- Place mooring buoys out of eelgrass or use eelgrass-friendly buoy designs.
- Use a marina or mooring buoys instead of building a new dock.
- If you have an existing dock, make sure you have light penetrable grating for decking and avoid toxic treated wood.
- Keep your boat in good working order and quickly clean even small oil spills.
- Share this information with friends, family, and visitors.



herring in eelgrass image by Florian Graner



photo: Mark Gardner

## **BOATERS**

**Use the map inside to protect sensitive eelgrass habitats in the San Juans**





# WHEN IN DOUBT, ANCHOR OUT!

EELGRASS  
PROTECTION  
ZONE



ANCHOR OUT  
FOR SAFETY  
& SALMON



sanjuans.org | (360) 378-2319

## RESOURCES FOR BOATERS

### PUMPOUT STATIONS

#### STUART ISLAND

Stuart Island State  
Park/Reid Harbor  
(360) 378-2044

#### SAN JUAN ISLAND

Roche Harbor  
(360) 378-9816

Friday Harbor Marina  
(360) 378-2688

#### LOPEZ ISLAND

Islands Marine Center  
(360) 468-3377

#### ORCAS ISLAND

Rosario Resort  
(360) 376-2152 ext 700

West Beach Resort  
(360) 376-2240

West Sound Marina  
(360) 376-2314

Deer Harbor Marina  
(360) 376-3037

#### SHAW ISLAND

Shaw General Store  
(360) 468-2288

### MOORING BUOYS

Public mooring buoys are available at many state marine parks and shoreline county parks in the San Juan Islands. For more information please visit the Washington State Parks and San Juan County websites.



photo: Mark Gardner

### BE WHALE WISE!

*Current U.S. regulations as of 2019*

- Stay 200 yards from Transient orcas
- Stay 300 yards from Southern Resident orcas
- Go slow (<7 knots) when within ½ mile of Southern Resident orcas
- Turn off engine if whales appear within 300 yards
- Turn off fish finders and echo sounders when not in use

### MARINE MAMMAL REPORTING HOTLINES

To report a dead, injured or stranded marine mammal, please call (866) 767-6114

For law enforcement, harassments, and other violations, please call (800) 853-1964

For entangled marine mammals, please call (877) 767-9425 or hail the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Ch. 16

### DERELICT GEAR

To report derelict fishing gear  
Please call (855) 542-3935

### OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Call 1 (800) OILS 911

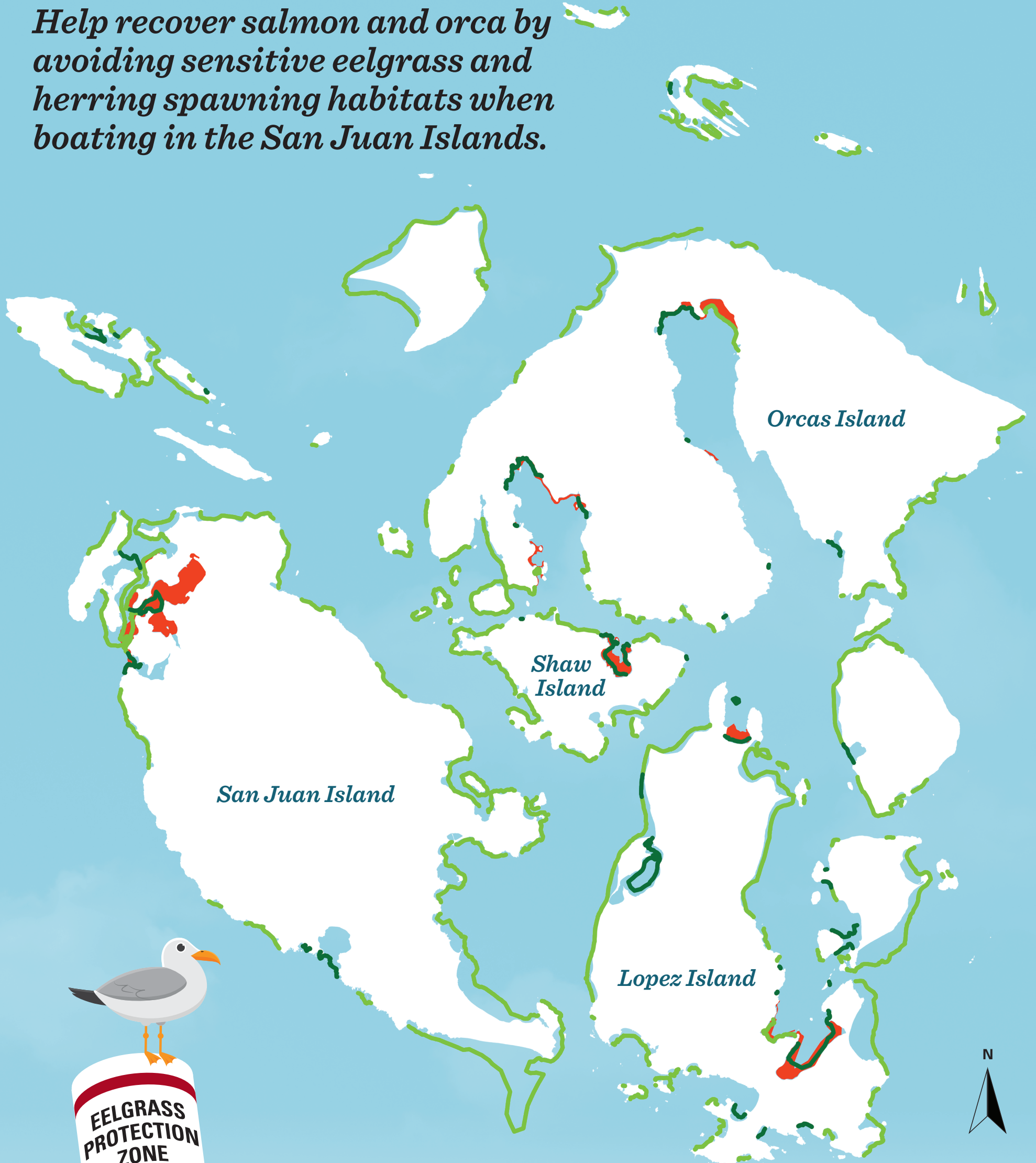
- Stay on scene
- Safety first
- Don't add dish soap!
- Contain and absorb

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# ANCHOR OUT OF EELGRASS

*Help recover salmon and orca by avoiding sensitive eelgrass and herring spawning habitats when boating in the San Juan Islands.*



## ● **Herring Spawning Habitat**

Anchor out of eelgrass or use mooring buoys to protect herring spawning grounds.

## ● **Shallow Eelgrass Habitat**

Anchor deeper than 15 feet (at low tide) to avoid eelgrass in these areas.

## ● **Eelgrass Habitat**

Anchor deeper than 25 feet (at low tide) to avoid eelgrass in these areas.

*This map not intended for navigational purposes*