

# Beneath Emerald Waters

## Scuba Diving Locations in Puget Sound



Sucia Island

**26 Sucia Island:** Sucia is a divers' paradise of rock walls, protruding ledges, reef systems and nearby islands to enjoy. The north side of the island offers at least two great wall dives; under Lawson Bluff and off Ewing Island at the NE corner of Echo Bay. All divers can find a comfortable depth along the boulder-strewn walls and kelp forests to enjoy large schools of rockfish, (including rare tiger rockfish), kelp greenlings, lingcod, many varieties of nudibranchs, scallops, starfish, barnacles and much more. Visibility in the bays can be poor, beware of boat traffic and fishing gear.

### 27 Turn Point (Stuart Island):

Another great island wall dive, Turn Point actually offers two distinct dive environments. The south side of the wall offers a nearly vertical descent to 300', with small caves in its depths for adventurous divers to find. The north side of the point is a gently sloping boulder garden to investigate macro life. Currents are strong, plan your dive at slack tide with a small exchange.

**28 San Juan County Park:** A great place to camp and dive with a variety of sites. SmallPox Bay at its south perimeter is sandy and fairly protected. North Bay is also sandy and gives access to the park's north shoreline. It also is the jumping off point to Low Island located just offshore. Strong currents make this an advanced dive better accessed by kayak or small boat.

### 29 Lime Kiln State Park:

A picturesque location along Haro Strait, Lime Kiln is a Voluntary Marine Sanctuary that is a look at "old school" Puget Sound with a dense array of invertebrate and other marine life. Coves on either side allow for entry and exit in protected back eddies, but the point itself has strong currents.

### 30 Reuben Tarte Picnic Area:

Offers rocky shorelines and a beautiful reef, divers can explore either side of the cove, and investigate boulders and rocky habitats where Puget Sound king crab, Irish lords, small fish and a host of invertebrate life await you. This area can be silty, especially when wind-driven waves are present.

**31 Jones Island:** This small island park is accessible from nearby Orcas or San Juan Islands, and offers several dive sites and reefs to explore. The reef off it's north end is a sandstone structure descending to moderate depths and harboring lingcod and other fish in small overhangs and caves.

**32 Bell Island:** A small island with rock ledges that are home to lingcod, rockfish and wolf eels.

**33 Doe Island:** A protected bay with an island dive that is good for snorkeling, diving and just plain exploring. Lots of kelp and rocks loaded with scallops, fish and more.

**34 James Island:** There are many different walls and rocky ledges on each side to explore depending on tide and current. Kelp forests in several places offer hiding places for fish, colorful anemones, and all the usual critters of the deep.

**Rocky Habitats:** Rocky habitats include current-swept walls, solitary boulders, fields of stacked boulders, and aggregates of cobbles and gravel. Rockfish, lingcod, greenlings, sculpins and a unique community of anemones, barnacles, sponge, snails, and other invertebrates live in these habitats.

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# Scuba Diving Locations in North Puget Sound



**Marine Science Centers**

- Bellingham Marine Life Center**  
www.marinelifecenter.org • 360-671-2431
- Port Townsend Marine Science Center**  
www.ptmsc.org • 360-531-0127
- Feiro Marine Life Center**  
www.olympen.com/feirolab • 360-417-6254
- Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**  
www.padillabay.gov • (360) 428-1558

**For More Information**

Washington Visitor Information:  
experiencewashington.com

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:  
wdfw.wa.gov/viewing  
wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/diving

Washington Scuba Alliance:  
wascuba.org/index.htm

Divers Alert Network (DAN):  
diversalertnetwork.org

NOAA Tides & Currents:  
tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov

**Dive Safely**

Dive within your ability, training and experience level. Site conditions may vary from those described. Divers are responsible for their own dive plan; this is not intended as a replacement.



Cabazon

**37 Rosario Beach:** A beautiful beach within stunning Deception Pass State Park, Rosario Beach offers several options for all levels of divers. There's a long pebble beach entry to the large cove, or small islands and rocky bluffs on either end.

**38 Deception Pass:** A premier site with steep, spectacular walls covered with invertebrates and home to large fish. It should only be dove by advanced divers with local knowledge, as extremely strong currents make this site dangerous.

**39 Fort Worden State Park:** Two dives make this an interesting dive destination. One is off the beach to the artificial reef marked by a white buoy and consists of cement pipes, tires and scattered logs. The second is under the pier itself, where there's lots of life living amid plumose anemones and tubeworms.

**40 Fort Flagler:** This site is on the east shore of the park. An easy, but exposed, entry has a small, colorful artificial reef that is an easy swim.

**41 Keystone Jetty:** (MPA) Keystone Jetty is quite possibly the richest dive site in Puget Sound for underwater life and is a marine preserve located on the south side of the jetty or among the old pillings located just offshore. Enjoy swimming through a small kelp forest and coming face to face with lingcod, kelp greenlings, and octopus amid plumose anemone and invertebrate covered boulders. There are good shore facilities and a sandy beach to enjoy as well.



Keystone Jetty

**42 Scatchet Head:** This is an undulating series of shallower sandy hills and gullies that have many patches of kelp that fish enjoy. These drop off into deep water to the southwest.

**43 Possession Point Ferry:** This is the large wreck of the *Kehloken* ferry, put down as an artificial reef along with piles of cement roadway and pillings. This is a huge area to explore with many different structures harboring sea life. The plumose anemone covered top of the wreck has become a nursery for schools of rockfish. Deeper wreckage is home to huge lingcod with lots of invertebrates in between. Beware of boat traffic and strong surface currents.

**44 Possession Point Fingers:** A 40' deep shelf drops off nearly vertically to deep water with several "fingers" of clay and sandstone that have many ledges, overhangs and caves to explore for large fish and octopus.

**45 Mukilteo:** Access is down short stairs to Community Beach downtown next to a hotel and the ferry dock. The slope is fairly steep, so it's a good place to practice deeper dives. There are many artificial reef elements that divers have placed to explore. Currents can be moderate along the open slope.

**Marine Protected Area Guidelines**

Marine protected areas (MPA's) prohibit the taking of all species of invertebrates and fishes. The MPA's also offer marine life a refuge from fishing and poaching pressures. For more information go to [wdfw.wa.gov/fish/mpa/puget\\_sound/index.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/mpa/puget_sound/index.htm)



Giant Pacific Octopus

**35 Turn Island State Park:** Directly offshore from Friday Harbor is this jewel of a park and dive site. Short rocky walls and boulder fields are covered with purple encrusting hydrocoral, sponges and invertebrates that offer homes to many animals. The wall off its east side is a deep drop-off and an exciting advanced drift dive. The site should only be dove at slack, and divers should be aware of very strong currents and rotating downdrafts that can be extremely hazardous.

**36 Long Island:** One of the best wall dives in the Pacific Northwest is found on its south side. Its steep, current-washed slopes are covered with strawberry anemones, sponge, barnacles and invertebrate life of every hue. Overhangs and a cave are found deeper. Nearby Whale Rocks, or the south side of Iceberg Point, offer boulder-strewn terrain for a second dive.



5-Lined Aeolid Nudibranch



Grunt Sculpin



Quillback Rockfish

# Beneath Emerald Waters

## Scuba Diving Locations in South Puget Sound



Lingcod

**W**elcome to one of the world's largest and most productive inland seas, where divers can explore an amazing diversity of sea life and marine environments. Washington's Puget Sound has numerous islands, bays, estuaries, mud flats, and gravelly or sandy beaches that provide the backdrop for this unique map. Through increased knowledge, awareness and active participation, you can help protect this diverse, yet vulnerable, natural heritage.

**1 Bruce Higgins UW Trails:** (MPA) A premier dive site, developed for and about divers, the Edmonds Underwater Park has it all; trails to small wrecks, large fish, interesting structures and much more. Great drive-up beach access and full facilities make it one of the top diving destinations in Puget Sound.

**2 Boeing Creek Reef:** There are two areas to this artificial reef built of boulders. The first is fairly shallow, along a curved slope going down to 65'. This is a nursery for rockfish and is very colorful with a prolific amount of life of all kinds. The second area is to the south, starting at around 65' and going down much deeper. Larger fish and octopus can be found here.

**3 Alki Point Junkyard & Pipeline:** Historic Alki Point in West Seattle boasts two great dive sites; The Junkyard at the west end of Alki Beach Park and The Pipeline at Constellation Park Marine Preserve. Both offer a great variety and number of interesting fish and invertebrates for all levels of divers to enjoy.



Seacrest Park

**4 Seacrest Park:** This popular urban park offers three large coves with all sorts of different dives to enjoy. There's little current and a range of depths. From its shallow, rocky breakwater to deep technical diving, with small wrecks and lots of sea-life available; everyone can find their own favorite dive. Good facilities, access and one of the best views of downtown Seattle make it an enjoyable place for all levels of divers to enjoy Elliot Bay.

**5 Blakely Rock:** Close to Seattle and with easy shore access for small boats and kayaks, Blakely Rock has many dive sites for divers and snorkelers to discover. To the east after anchoring on it's top, there is a ledge going out SE with sharply plunging boulder-covered slopes. Cracks along its top are favorite hiding places for octopus. Resident wolf eels are usually found under a small ledge on its north side. China Wall is on Blakely Rock's SW corner with a large crack starting at 65' down to 85' that rockfish enjoy. Further inshore at the NW entrance to the harbor is Norranders Reef. It's rocky ledges are also accessible from Rockway Beach Park on Bainbridge Island.

Female Kelp Greenling

**11 Ed Munro Seahurst Park:** This scenic park offers an easy, but fairly long, swim out to a largely decomposed barge. A very large field of sea pens can be found north of the barge. Exploring the barge you might find octopus and other animals.

**12 Three Tree Point North:** The diversity of various man-made structures, small boat wrecks and urban remains at this site is intriguing, and you never know quite what you'll find living here. The artificial reefs run parallel to shore at two depths and divers of all experience levels can find something to enjoy there, or in shallow eel grass near the shore. Currents are moderate and tend to run southward, it can be dived at times other than slack and is a good destination when south winds are blowing.

**13 Salt Water State Park:** Saltwater Park is a lush state park with good facilities located in a residential area with underwater trails and artificial reefs to enjoy. There is a shallow reef and a long swim out to the marker buoy at the dive area, otherwise it is suitable for all divers.

**14 Redondo Beach:** This improved site offers a variety of options for all divers to enjoy. Access is easy down the stairs to the beach on either side of the wharf that houses Highline College's Aquarium. Swim out and submerge from the ladder on the west end and go down the slope to find small boat wrecks and other man-made reefs. Look around under them to find octopus, sculpins and other fish hovering nearby. The sandy slopes are a good place to spot large skates and dogfish. New divers can practice their buoyancy in the pipe obstacle course.

**15 KVI Towers Reef:** A very nice, artificial boulder reef is located at the north entrance to Tramp Harbor just SE from the end of the sandspit. Best done as a boat or kayak dive, it is accessible via a long walk on shore at low tides. It is a developed and colorful reef, with many fish, octopus and other invertebrates to enjoy. Best dove on slack before flood.

**16 Point Defiance:** The north side of this prominent point continues downward with large sandstone boulders and clay ledges. Wolf eels and octopus are commonly found there. Dive at slack and beware of boat traffic.

### Visit Washington's Marine Science Centers

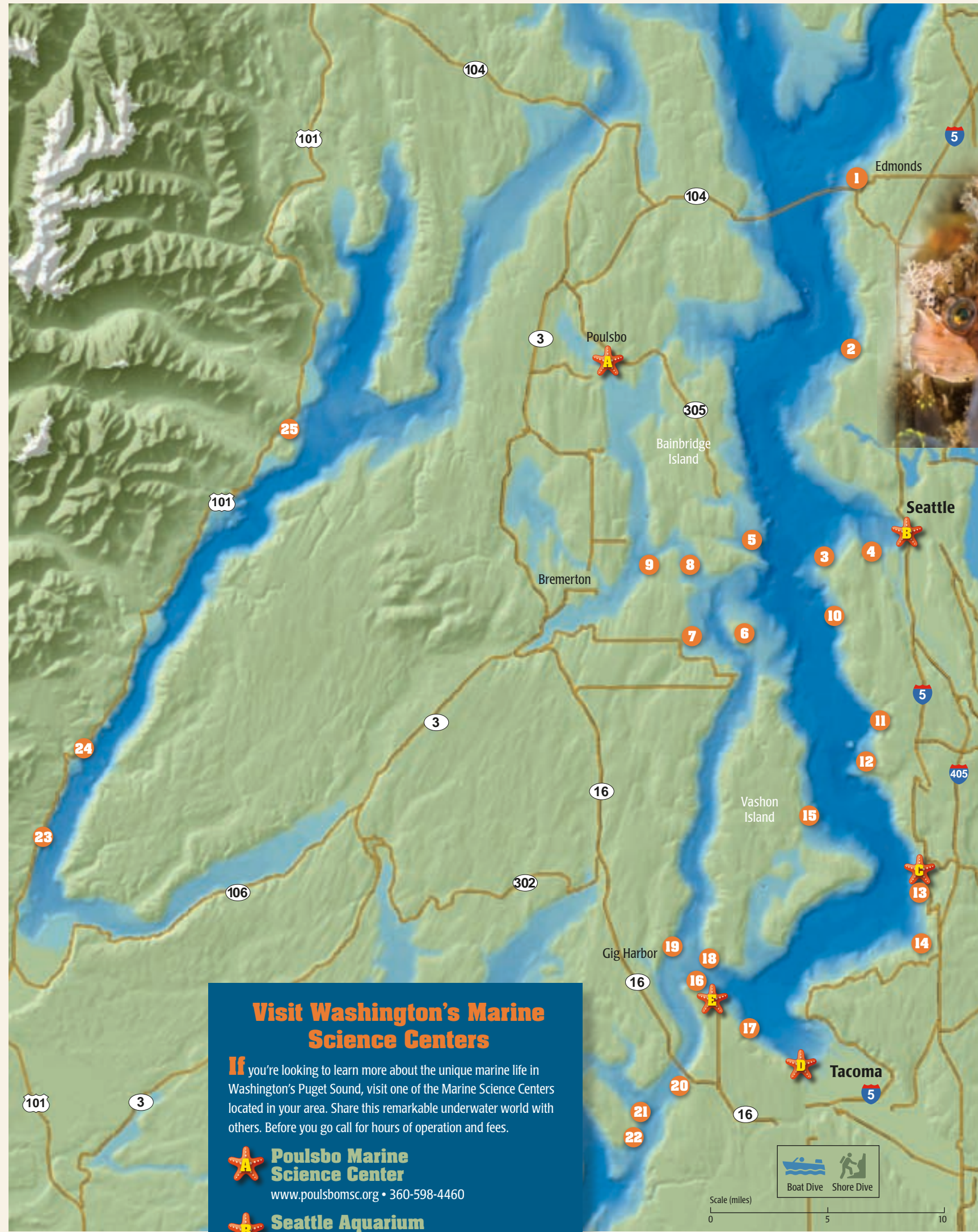
If you're looking to learn more about the unique marine life in Washington's Puget Sound, visit one of the Marine Science Centers located in your area. Share this remarkable underwater world with others. Before you go call for hours of operation and fees.

- Poulsbo Marine Science Center**  
www.poulsbomsc.org • 360-598-4460
- Seattle Aquarium**  
www.seattleaquarium.org • 206-386-4344
- Marine Science & Technology (MaST) Center** Highline Community College  
http://flightline.highline.edu/MAST • 206-878-3710
- Foss Waterway Seaport**  
www.fosswaterwayseaport.org • 253-272-2750
- Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium**  
www.pdza.org • 253-404-3637
- The Nisqually Reach Nature Center** (not shown)  
www.nisquallysestuary.org • 360-459-0387



Les Davis Marine Park

**17 Les Davis Marine Park:** (MPA) Les Davis has been improved and developed for divers in a convenient, urban location along Tacoma's Commencement Bay. The site consists of large slabs of hollowed concrete roadway gathered in large piles from shallow to deeper depths. Be sure to carry a knife, as large amounts of fishing line can be found there. Do not swim eastward past the tire reef by the fishing pier.



Octopus Hole

Decorated Warbonnet

**18 Dalco Wall:** If you want to experience a spectacular deep drop off with interesting small overhangs and caves, Dalco Wall is for you.

Large fish and octopus abound, and if you're lucky you might have an encounter with a six-gill shark. Strong currents and down drafts make this an advanced site.

**19 Sunrise Beach County Park:** (MPA) Sunrise is a unique wall dive in a high current area that supports large animals used to human presence. Although a relatively small area, the system of small outcroppings continues from a kelp-forested wall at 35 feet down to a second wall at 80 feet. The site is full of fish and invertebrates. Living along the walls and under the outcroppings are several friendly wolf eels and octopuses.

**20 Titlow Beach:** (MPA) Located along the Tacoma Narrows, Titlow Beach is a protected marine park set amid the pilings from an old ferry dock. A great site for all divers, it's full of all sorts of life and relatively shallow.

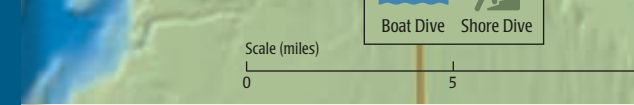
**21 Z's Reef:** (MPA) A small ledge and short wall just offshore from the north side of Fox Island is home to wolf eels and octopus and small sealife of all kinds. All divers can enjoy this boat dive.

**22 Fox Island East Wall:** Fox Island East Wall is a good place to experience several short, but interesting, sandstone walls that have a great variety of Puget Sound aquatic life. Dive at slack water.

**23 Sund Rock:** (MPA) Although private uplands, access is available for a fee from a local Hood-sport dive shop. The site has two main areas; North Wall and Sund Rock. North Wall is fairly vertical with short ledges going down to around 80'. Sund Rock itself is a series of large boulders and ledges going down to very deep depths. Lots of rockfish and octopus can be found there. Both dives offer something for everyone, from shallow practice areas to deep tech diving opportunities.

**24 Octopus Hole:** (MPA) This rocky beach is located along the green shores of Hood Canal, and features a short swim to a nice wall in shallow depths with lots of fish, some wolf eels and maybe even an 8 legged friend.

**25 Pleasant Harbor:** This is the charter and small boat jumping off place for diving in the middle of Hood Canal. Nearby sites include an incredible seamount called The Pinnacle that allows a circular dive plan to enjoy both shallow and deeper depths. Schools of rockfish, as well as octopus and wolf eels can be spotted there. Other great nearby wall dives include Pulali and Misery Points.



Wolf Eel