

Image from 2020 by John Gussman

# 3 CRABS

## Nearshore and Estuarine Restoration Project

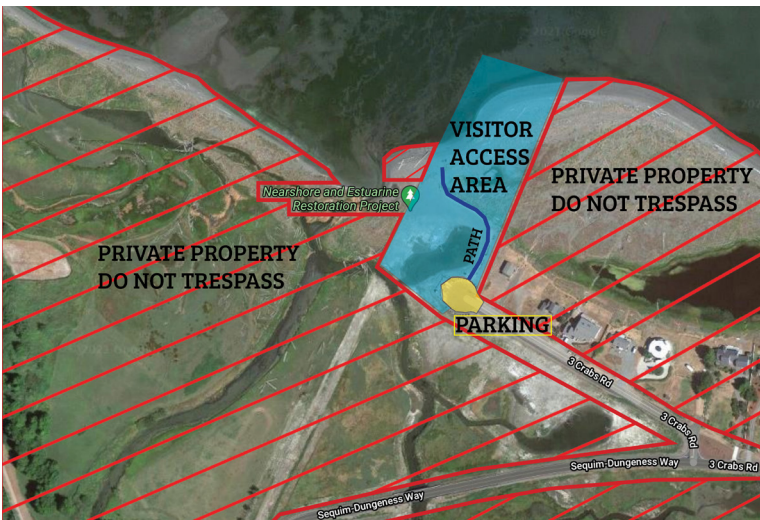
### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Completed in 2016, the 3 Crabs Nearshore and Estuarine Restoration Project restored 84 acres of estuarine and off-channel habitat at Meadowbrook Creek, which is part of the greater Dungeness River estuary. These quiet channels and pools now provide essential transitional habitat where juvenile salmon from the Dungeness and other rivers will forage and grow on their journey to the ocean. Restoration actions included removing infrastructure and shoreline armoring from the site of the former 3 Crabs Restaurant; relocating a road and reshaping the land to historic contours; exchanging an undersized



creosote bridge for a larger bridge so the creek could flow freely under the roadway without backing up on high flows; and removing over 170 creosote pilings from a derelict wharf. The Salmon Coalition partnered with many entities to accomplish this exciting project, including The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, which made the project possible by purchasing the restaurant property. The location is now a Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife public access area for birdwatching, kayaking, and enjoying views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

### Visiting the Site



### ACCESS

In Google Maps, use 'Nearshore and Estuarine Restoration Project' in Sequim, WA for driving directions to the 3 Crabs Restoration Project site. Visitors can park in the parking lot at the west end of 3 Crabs Road, shaded in yellow. An easily accessible path leads down to the beach and river delta. *\*Note: There is private property on both sides of the Visitor Access Area, please be respectful and know that it is forbidden to trespass.*

**Open:** All year from dawn to dusk  
**Limited Parking**

## VISIT HIGHLIGHTS

**Fauna:** The surrounding greater Dungeness estuary and bay are an important migratory stopover for waterfowl (up to 13,000 birds per year). Look for diving ducks, shorebirds, and gulls in the Bay or nearby lagoons and channels. This is one of the most reliable places to



Image by John Gussman



**KAYAKING AND PURPLE MARTIN BOXES**



**DUNEGRASS**



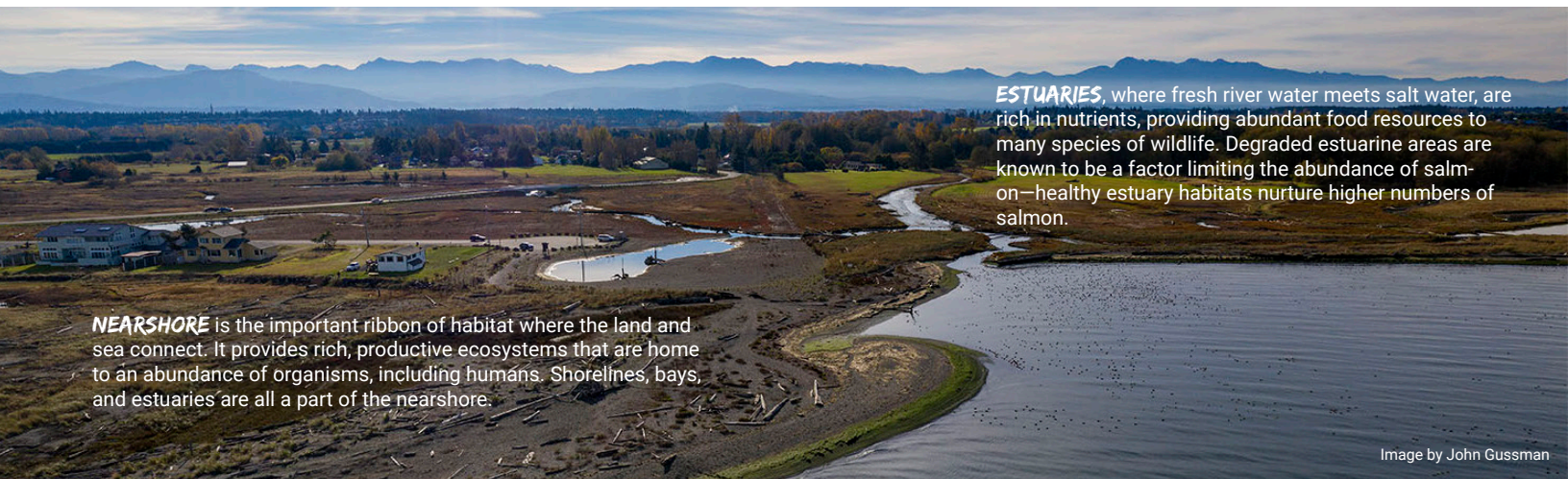
**GUMWEED**

see Eurasian Wigeon (hint: look in the huge flocks of American Wigeon during fall and winter). On the beach at low tide you might see a variety of sandpipers and plovers. Sand and gravel islands within the bay provide roosting sites for gulls, terns, cormorants, ducks, geese, and occasionally, in the fall, Brown Pelicans. As part of the 3 Crabs restoration project, the Salmon Coalition teamed with the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society to install several birdhouses on top of pilings for migrating purple martins. Look for the nest boxes on the poles during breeding season.



Image by John Gussman

**Flora:** In 2016, volunteers helped to plant 4,000 dune-grass plugs. You can see some of them along the beach trail. Gumweed and lupine will also be blooming along this trail in late spring and summer.



**NEARSHORE** is the important ribbon of habitat where the land and sea connect. It provides rich, productive ecosystems that are home to an abundance of organisms, including humans. Shorelines, bays, and estuaries are all a part of the nearshore.

**ESTUARIES**, where fresh river water meets salt water, are rich in nutrients, providing abundant food resources to many species of wildlife. Degraded estuarine areas are known to be a factor limiting the abundance of salmon—healthy estuary habitats nurture higher numbers of salmon.

Image by John Gussman



**BEFORE**

### BY THE NUMBERS

- \*ACRES RESTORED: 84
- \*61 FOOT BRIDGE BUILT
- \*ROADWAY RELOCATED ~1,000 FEET FROM SHORELINE
- \*FILL REMOVED: 36,325 cubic yards
- \*CREOSOTE REMOVED: 466 tons (estuary) + 10.7 tons (wharf removal)
- \*DUNEGRASS PLUGS PLANTED: 4,000



**AFTER**

**PARTNERS:** Clallam Conservation District, Clallam County, Dungeness Farms LLC, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, New Dungeness Lighthouse Association, North Olympic Land Trust, North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Port of Port Angeles, Clallam Public Utilities District, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.