

The San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area

The Marine Stewardship Area is designed to protect the unique and valuable marine resources of the islands while allowing sustainable use of marine resources to continue forever.

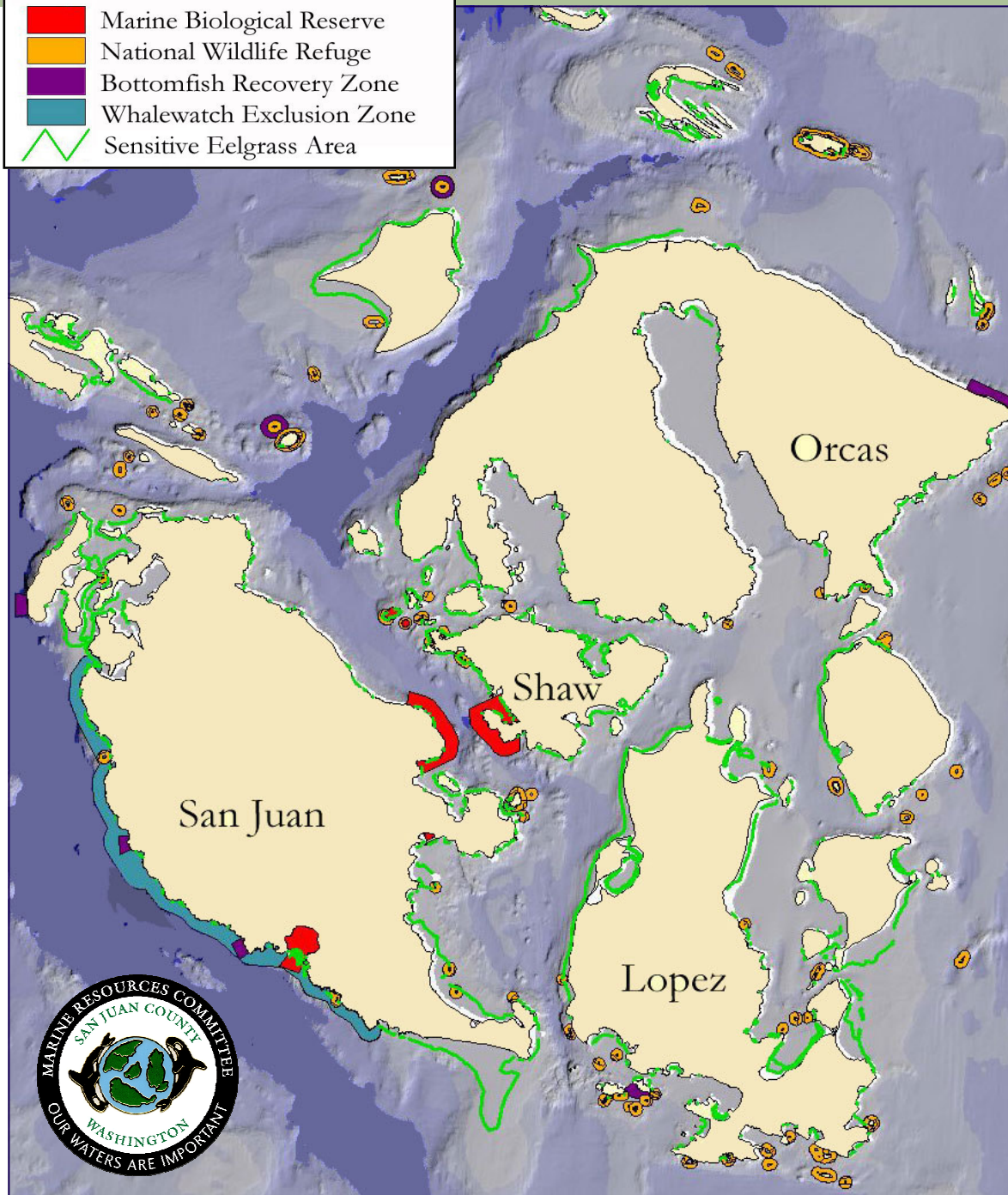
Without establishing any new regulations, the Marine Stewardship Area highlights the numerous protections, both voluntary and regulatory, that exist to protect and restore the San Juan County marine ecosystem.

Further development of the Stewardship Area is happening through a public process; please look for opportunities to participate. Your opinions on stewardship matter.

Marine Biological Reserves

Regulation: closed to all shellfish and bottomfish activities (except crabbing in Parks Bay). See marine area 7 rules for exact locations.

- Marine Biological Reserve
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Bottomfish Recovery Zone
- Whalewatch Exclusion Zone
- Sensitive Eelgrass Area



National Wildlife Refuges

Regulation: 83 locations are closed to the public. Stay 200 yards away from all marine mammals and birds.

Bottomfish Recovery Zones

Guideline: no bottom fishing within 1/4 mile offshore to protect and restore regional fishing; 8 locations.

Whalewatch Exclusion Zones

Guideline: remain 1/4 mile offshore (1/2 mile in Lime Kiln area) when whales are present.

Regulation: Be Whale Wise! Do not disturb any marine mammals anywhere.

Sensitive Eelgrass Areas

Eelgrass provides critical habitat for juvenile fish. Please avoid disturbing sediments and vegetation in less than 30' of water.

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