

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 to occur 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.

Marine Preserves Regulation: closed to all shellfish and bottomfish harvest (except crabbing in Parks Bay). See marine area 7 rules for exact locations. **Salmon Fishing Closure:** no salmon fishing within 300 yards of Yellow and Low Islands to reduce rockfish mortality from unintentional harvest.

National Wildlife Refuges Regulation: 81 locations are closed to the public. Boaters are advised to stay 200 yards away to avoid disturbing 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 anchoring or otherwise disturbing sediments and vegetation in less than 30' of water.

For what you can do to help, follow the rules and guideline and visit the San Juan Marine Resources Committee website...

www.sjcmrc.org

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