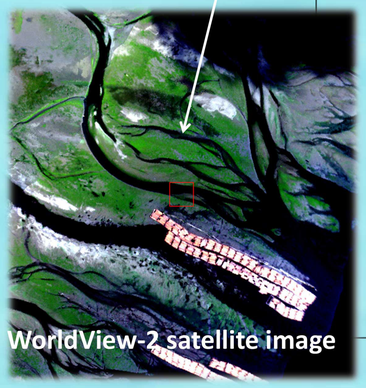
Salmon Habitat: Eelgrass and Kelp

Eelgrass meadows and bull kelp forests act as dining rooms, salons and hiding places for juvenile salmon near the shores of quiet bays and estuaries. In British Columbia, several important activities are taking place as part of the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project to help protect these habitats.



Eelgrass Conservation through Maps, Ecology, and Communities

Aerial photos from the 1950's to the present indicate where eelgrass beds are, or could be if restored.

More detailed eelgrass mapping is done by deploying an underwater camera that is towed by a boat and recording the geographic location of eelgrass beds using GPS.

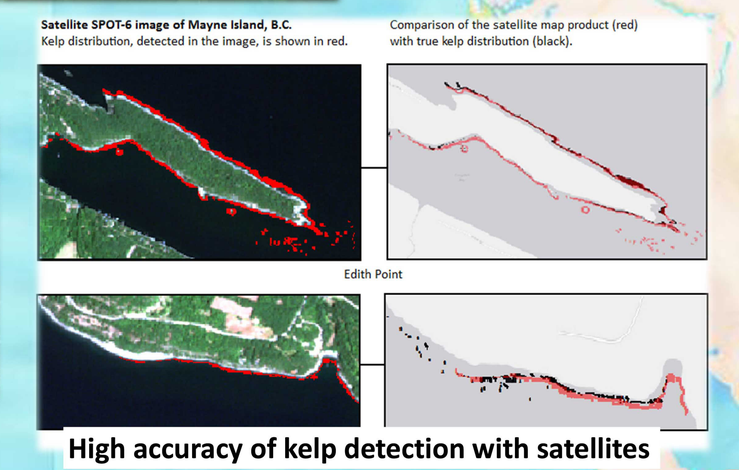
Considering the Human Element

Satellite imagery and aerial photos to determine land use change in watersheds above eelgrass meadows.

Eighteen sites within the Salish Sea, most of them former logging are being restored and monitored for the next 5 years.

Kelp

Satellite imagery to map the aerial extent of kelp beds in the Salish Sea.



Kelp Restoration

Bull kelp restoration research at several sites within the Salish Sea is improving our understanding of factors limiting kelp abundance and testing methods to increase this habitat.

Kelp
eelgrass

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