

What can you do?

Please Volunteer

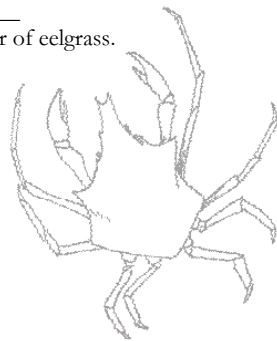
Since the health of the ocean affects us all, people from all walks of life volunteer with SeaChange. Our team includes divers, biologists, educators and concerned members of the community. If you would like to know how you can help SeaChange protect marine habitat, contact us at seachange@shaw.ca.

Adopt a bed of Eelgrass

We need financial support to realize our vision of restoring the eelgrass community in Tod Inlet. You can help guarantee that future transplants will take place by adopting an area of eelgrass. One square meter of eelgrass can be planted for 50 dollars. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for donations of 10 dollars or more.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
e-mail: _____

- Find out more about volunteer opportunities with SeaChange.
- Contribute to eelgrass restoration.
Amount _____
- Adopt 1 square meter of eelgrass.
\$50.00

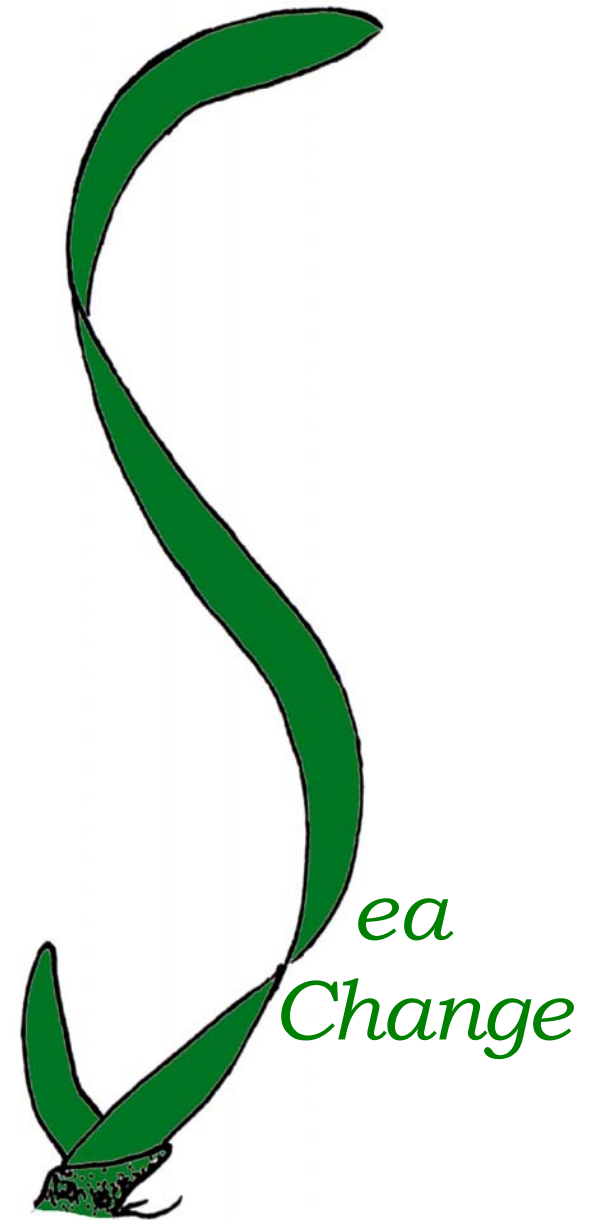


Our mission is to educate local communities and facilitate the conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems.



Illustrations by Julia Signart and Clio Reid

Marine Conservation Society
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Marine Conservation Society

Who are we?

SeaChange

SeaChange Marine Conservation Society is a community based non-profit organisation. We are dedicated to educating local residents about the conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems.

Education

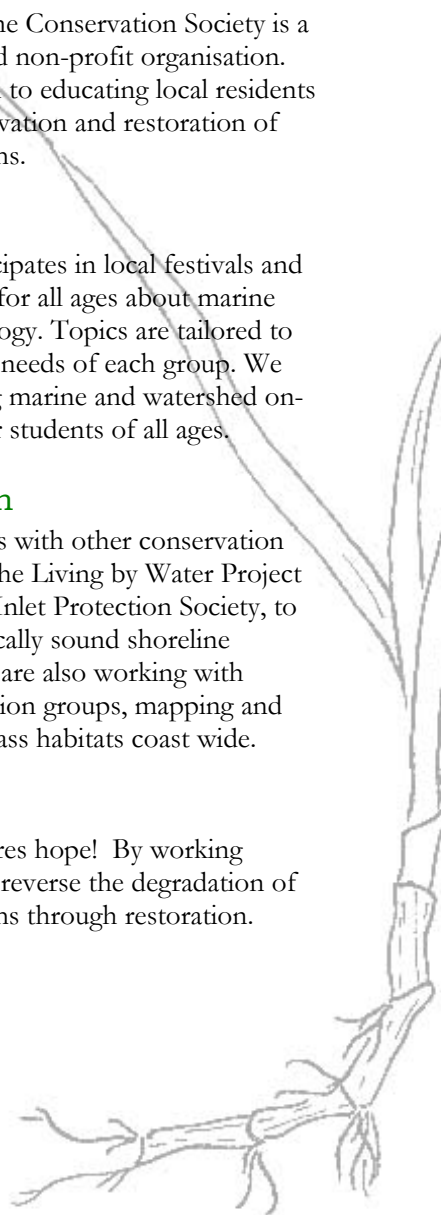
SeaChange participates in local festivals and offers programs for all ages about marine and eelgrass ecology. Topics are tailored to the interests and needs of each group. We provide engaging marine and watershed on-site programs for students of all ages.

Conservation

SeaChange works with other conservation groups, such as the Living by Water Project and the Saanich Inlet Protection Society, to promote ecologically sound shoreline stewardship. We are also working with twenty conservation groups, mapping and monitoring eelgrass habitats coast wide.

Restoration

SeaChange restores hope! By working together, we can reverse the degradation of marine ecosystems through restoration.



Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*)

What is it?

Eelgrass is not a seaweed, but a flowering plant adapted to life in marine water. This beautiful bright green ribbon-like grass grows just below the low tide line in muddy sediment.

Why is it Important?

Among the richest and most productive of all biotic communities, eelgrass provides a diversity of habitats for marine life:

- 80% of commercially important fish depend on eelgrass during part of their life cycle;
- Eelgrass plants help to slow coastline erosion, preserving both public and private lands;
- Pacific herring and smelt deposit their eggs on eelgrass blades;
- Birds, fish, crabs, snails and a host of other organisms depend on eelgrass for food and shelter.

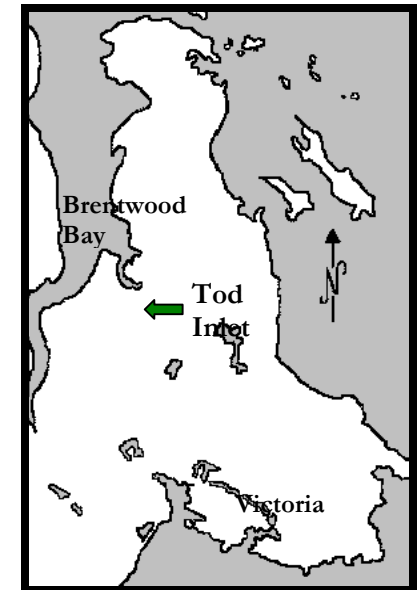
Dangers to Eelgrass

These vital habitats are threatened by industrial, residential and recreational development. Pollution, dredging, and anchor dragging continue to destroy herring spawning grounds in the Strait of Georgia.

Project Emerald Sea

Tod Inlet

The eelgrass beds of Tod Inlet are all but gone. Industrial and residential development has done enormous damage to the shoreline of the Saanich Peninsula. But it is not too late to change this. SeaChange is currently working to restore this essential marine habitat. We envision the reintroduction of acres of eelgrass to once again shelter salmon, herring, crabs, and shellfish.



Our first eelgrass transplant (April 2000) is currently being monitored for animal diversity and plant density.

With the support of Saanich Peninsula residents, SeaChange is planning to restore the eelgrass population throughout Tod Inlet.