

Washington State NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE AREA



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

There are stories here. Canoe cultures. The age of European exploration. Oyster boats, fishing fleets, the mosquito fleet. Canneries up and down the coast. Lighthouses and shipwrecks. They are stories of land and water, sound, strait and ocean, bays and beaches. They are stories of the people who have made this place their home, or who have sought it out for exploration, commerce or recreation. It is the rich mix of these stories through time and place that make designation of Washington's saltwater shores as a National Maritime Heritage Area so compelling.

Today, Washington's maritime heritage community is working in partnership towards this designation. Establishing the Washington State National Maritime Heritage Area would raise awareness of our heritage resources with a national audience and support expanded cooperation among the maritime heritage groups working in Washington.

Individual groups believe that telling a bigger story — one that brings together old and new, the Pacific and Puget Sound, large craft and small — will engage more of the public and better share the history, drama and excitement of our maritime stories.



The Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) completed a feasibility

study to designate Washington's saltwater shores as a National Maritime Heritage Area in April 2010. The National Parks Service found that DAHP's study met the criteria for designation. Legislation to establish the Washington State National Maritime Heritage Area was introduced in the 113th and 114th Congress. Senator Maria Cantwell and Congressmen Denny Heck and Derek Kilmer introduced similar legislation in the current 115th Congress.

Advocates seeking establishment of Washington's National Maritime Heritage believe the 115th Congress offers a tremendous opportunity for designation, either through passage of standalone legislation or through other legislative vehicles.



A National Heritage Area
Celebrating and Supporting
Washington State's Maritime Culture