













Low Tide Area 🔥

Dwarf Eelgrass



Stream

Sand Flat

Dry Gravel

Boulders

Wet Gravel/Cobble





High Tide Area

Shore Crab



Chain-forming Diatom



www.pugetsoundsealife.com





Tolmie State Park

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Common Animals and Plants

Black Brant (SF): Small sea goose, eats plants.

Chain-forming Diatom (SF): Single celled plant.

Dall's Barnacle (B): Small, high intertidal zone.

Dwarf Eelgrass (SF): Short, non-native seagrass.

Dungeness Crab (SF): Common subtidal, eaten¹.

Littleneck Clam (WG): Mid-tide, eaten¹, shallow.

Manila Clam (WG): Common, non-native, eaten¹.

Moon Snail (SF): Common, large predator on clams.

Nuttall's Cockle (SF): Surface, fast digger, eaten¹.

Pacific Oyster (SF): Planted, non-native, eaten 1.

Periwinkle (B): Common, small snail, eats algae.

Ring-billed Gull (SF): Small, yellow eye.

Sand Dollar (SF): Common, sea star cousin.

Sandworm (SF): Mid sized, burrows, predator.

Sea Lettuce (B/WG): Green seaweed, eaten 1 .

Shore Crab (B): Small, under rocks.

Staghorn Sculpin (S): Eaten by birds, has horns.

Spotted Aglaja Sea Slug (SF): Small, on sand.

White Macoma (SF): Common, deep burrower.

(1) Eaten by humans, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife license required.

Find out more about local marine animals and plants at: www.pugetsoundsealife.com

Photographs and text by David W Jamison.

<u>Directions</u>: North on Marvin Road off I-5 exit 111, four miles to 58^{th} St, turn right, then 0.5 mile to Hill Rd, north 0.5 mile to 61^{st} Ave, left to park.

Good Beach Behavior: The beach is managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, obey all laws. A beach or rock is someone's home, avoid stepping on sea critters, only turnover rocks the size of your head and return them to their original position. Avoid handling animals - watch and learn instead. Do not disturb birds and mammals.

Tolmie State Park Habitats: A

Sand flat (SF) is a three dimensional habitat with organisms both on top and underneath. The Stream (S) meanders over the sand flat at low tide. Boulders (B) are scattered above mid-tide with organisms on their surface or under them. Wet gravel/cobble (WG) area contain clams with barnacles and seaweed on the cobbles. Dry gravel (DG) lacks organisms except for sand fleas eating washed up seaweed and local areas used annually as spawning beds for Sand Lance fish.

Protect marine organisms by:

- *Proper disposal of pet waste
- *Using organic lawn care products
- *Annual septic tank inspection
- *Keeping pollutants out of storm drains

Remember – all water flows downhill to streams and estuaries.

More information at www.streamteam.info





at

Tolmie State Park



Located: North of I-5 on the northeast side of Johnson Point on Nisqually Reach.

What to see: Low tide -

Proceed to beach by trail to right of beginning of lower parking lot. Look for burrowing shrimp in mud of estuary. Manila and Littleneck clams can be dug (need license) from wet gravel/cobble area at base of berm. Hunt for variety of marine plants and animals on sand flat. Watch shorebirds. Shuck oysters from oyster reef (need license/leave shells at reef).

High Tide -

Watch gull and other sea birds feed. Diving reef offshore. Wade in shallow water looking for small fish and shrimp.