

# MARITIME WASHINGTON

## NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Supporting our shorelines by



**Celebrating and sharing the stories of our saltwater coasts**



**Promoting heritage tourism**



**Strengthening collaboration in the maritime community**

### What is a National Heritage Area?

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form nationally important landscapes. NHAs can support historic preservation, economic development, environmental conservation, tourism, education, recreation, research, and more.

### What does the Maritime Washington NHA look like?

The Maritime Washington NHA was designated in 2019 and stretches along 3,000 miles of coastline from Grays Harbor County to the Canadian border. The heritage area encompasses 18 federally recognized tribes, 13 counties, 32 incorporated cities, and 30 port districts. It is the first and only NHA in the country focused entirely on maritime heritage. The NHA is entirely non-regulatory, instead building partnerships to better tell the stories of these places and support communities in maintaining and sharing their unique resources.



### What are the benefits?

Sharing the rich stories—past and present—of our saltwater shores

Building partnerships between organizations, industries, & governments

Boosting local tourism with regional branding and promotional resources

Connecting organizations with new avenues for financial resources

Responding to locally-identified needs and hopes for our shores

Introducing visitors and residents alike to new adventures & experiences

### Who's steering this ship?

The Maritime Washington NHA is facilitated by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, a statewide nonprofit organization, with support and funding from the National Park Service. It is locally-led, with our coastal communities and maritime partners determining what the NHA will look like and how it will operate.

### How can I get involved?

Over the next year, we'll be working with local residents and organizations to turn our collective vision into a plan for the heritage area. If you live, work, or play along Washington's coasts, we want to hear from you! Visit our website to sign up for email updates and learn more about how you can help us navigate the seas ahead.



[preservewa.org/mw-nha](https://preservewa.org/mw-nha)

