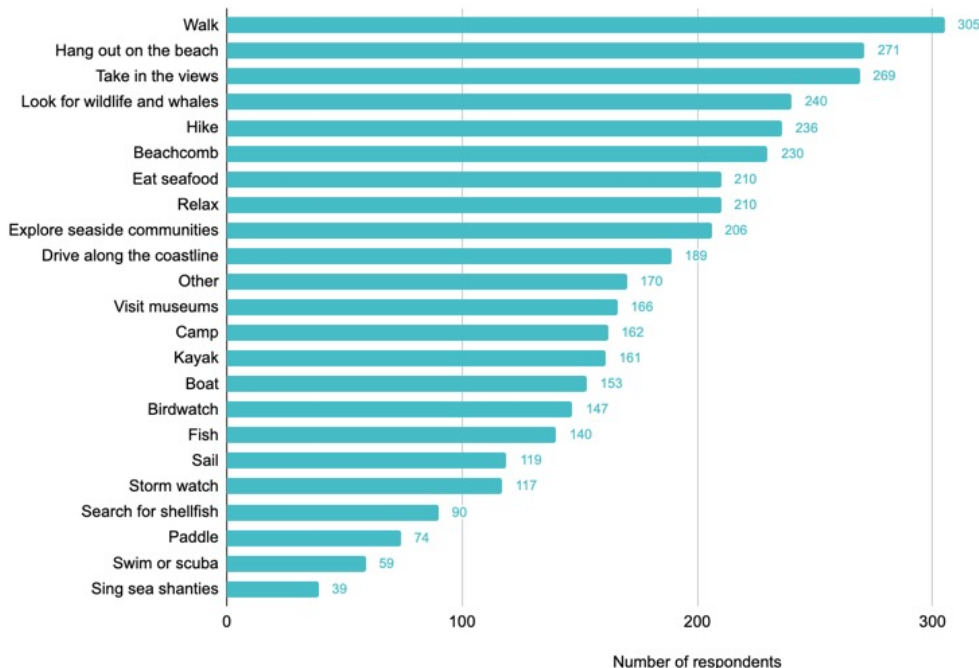


MARITIME WASHINGTON NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA SPRING 2021 PUBLIC INPUT

Throughout the spring of 2021, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation held a series of workshops, focus groups, surveys, and other public engagement activities to chart a course for the new Maritime Washington National Heritage Area. Hundreds of Washingtonians helped determine the future of this new heritage area by sharing their thoughts and ideas about the past, present, and future of our state's saltwater shorelines. Through this public input, we learned more about what makes our shores and waterways unique, the threats and opportunities facing our shorelines, and how this new heritage area can support communities and Tribes in maintaining and sharing their unique maritime heritage. Here's a snapshot of what we learned.

What is your favorite thing to do along Washington's coasts?

Survey results



What makes Washington's maritime heritage unique?

Top answers

1. Native heritage and culture
2. History
3. Nature, weather, and wildlife
4. Scenic beauty and views
5. Multicultural diversity
6. Working waterfronts and the maritime economy
7. Seafood, fishing, and aquaculture
8. Size and diversity of the shoreline
9. Geography and proximity to the mountains
10. Culture
11. Remote, rugged, and wild feeling
12. Built environment
13. Boats and boating culture
14. Boat building and trades
15. Public lands and accessibility
16. Orcas and salmon
17. Ferries
18. Unique combination of nature and culture
19. Recreation
20. Coastal communities

Which goals for our saltwater shores are most important to you?

1. Supporting tribes and local organizations in sharing their maritime heritage
2. Drawing connections between maritime heritage and healthy shorelines/marine waters
3. Connecting coastal communities to protect maritime heritage resources
4. Celebrating working waterfronts
5. Amplifying diverse and underrepresented maritime stories
6. Promoting heritage tourism

How could the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area help you celebrate, share, and care for the things that make maritime heritage in your community special?

Top answers

- Develop a network of practitioners who care for our maritime culture and resources
- Foster sense of interconnectedness between communities, organizations, and regions
- Centralize information for people looking to experience the area and encourage engagement with maritime resources
- Encourage responsible/respectful tourism and visitation
- Raise visibility of existing organizations, programs, and resources
- Connect organizations with funding and resources
- Share best practices and help replicate successful programs
- Help facilitate collaborative projects by bringing the right people to the table, creating clarity around goals, maintaining communications, and dedicating resources to managing the effort
- Strengthen pride of place and sense of identity
- Increase sense of connection between people and waterfront, especially by increasing access to the water
- Share Native stories
- Share under-told maritime stories
- Raise public awareness about the importance and value of maritime heritage and culture: past, present, and future
- Support living, vibrant maritime trades and industry
- Play an advocacy role on behalf of maritime heritage, trades, and shorelines
- Assist in preservation of historic maritime resources

When you think of the saltwater shores and the peoples and places along them, what three visuals first come to mind?



What excites you about the future of your coastal community?

Survey responses

"The number of organizations and individuals committed to keeping heritage alive and accessible."

"Collaborative opportunities and partnerships."

"Working towards resilience in coastal communities through connectedness."

"Being able to share our culture with more people."

"Honoring first peoples culture."

"Sharing of stories: past and present; creating a sense of place and respect for all living and visiting the communities."

"Accessibility and conservation, in tandem."

"Improved health of the marine ecosystems."

"More opportunities and adventures on the water!"

"That it can stay authentic and true to itself while still welcoming visitors."

"The next generation of trades people who have an interest in and working in the marine trades as a way of life."

"Preservation of historic sites, ecosystems, food, and lifeways."

"Increased awareness of cultural, environmental, and economic interconnectivity."



What will be different in 3-5 years for you and your community if the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area is successful?

Top answers

- Maritime practitioners will be able to benefit from a stronger network with more collaboration, communication, and opportunities to learn from one another—without putting a larger burden on organizations, Tribes, and individuals already working at capacity.
- There are stronger relationships, increased cooperation, and better understanding between Tribes and other non-Tribal groups.
- Local maritime communities are more connected with each other.
- The heritage area is a well-known, trusted source of information about the area and what to do along the coasts.
- More people (locals and visitors) are visiting and experiencing our saltwater shores—and are more sustainable and responsible in those experiences.
- There is a strengthened pride of place for both locals and visitors.
- Residents feel more connected with maritime culture and have more access to the water.
- There is a broader audience for maritime heritage and more stories are shared with them.
- Tribes have more opportunities to tell their stories and there are more Native voices reflected in maritime heritage/history.
- There is a more diverse understanding of maritime heritage/history.
- Modern maritime culture is more diverse.
- There are more funding opportunities for maritime organizations.

“In Washington State, maritime heritage is simply integrated in our DNA...We want to share our love for the marine waters and encourage others to also love and respect them.” —Workshop participant

Over the coming months, the heritage area planning team will use this input to create a management plan for the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, which will serve as a framework for how we'll work together to celebrate, maintain, and share our state's unique maritime places and heritage. We welcome anyone who cares for Washington's saltwater shorelines to stay involved in the planning process by identifying the places you value using our virtual Maritime Mapper and, later in 2021, reviewing a draft of the management plan. Learn more and sign up for updates at:

www.preservewa.org/mw-nha