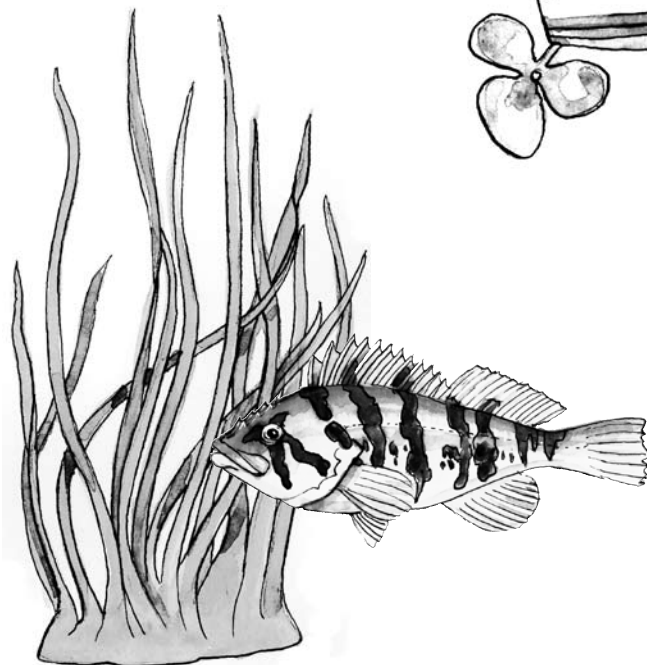
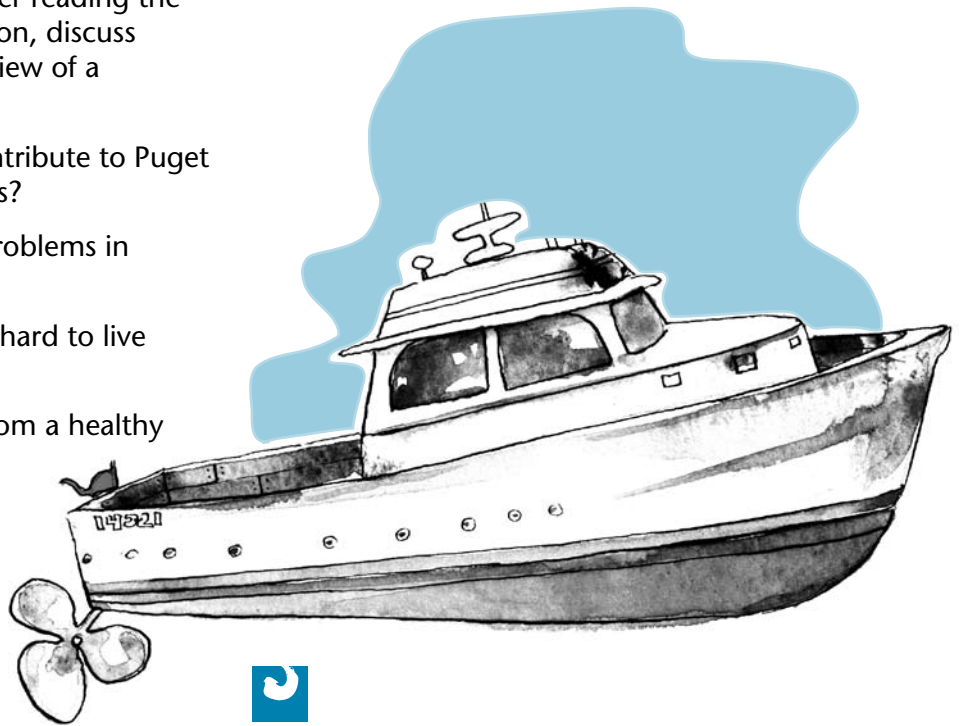




A Recreational Boater's Point of View Sheet

Puget Sounders own more than 165,000 power boats; 21,500 sailboats; 45,000 canoes, kayaks, sailboards, and inflatable boats. After reading the following questions and this selection, discuss these questions from the point of view of a recreational boater:

- How do recreational boaters contribute to Puget Sound's environmental problems?
- How could you help solve the problems in Puget Sound?
- Which solutions would you find hard to live with and why?
- What are the benefits you get from a healthy Puget Sound?



A Recreational Boater's Viewpoint

Thousands of people around Puget Sound own boats and enjoy motoring or sailing them on the Sound. Many people who live here have jobs building, repairing, or selling boats. Boating is important to us in many ways, but it can also be very damaging to the Sound. Boaters sometimes harm Puget Sound as they maintain and use boats. These poor boating practices damage the water that we enjoy playing in, on, and around. Most boaters are aware of problems in the Sound because they see trash, oil, and sewage in our waters. They want to protect Puget Sound for future generations and to continue enjoying it themselves.



Boaters Can Hurt Puget Sound

Boaters are another group of people who contribute to problems in Puget Sound:

- Toxic chemicals are often used to clean and paint boats. When boats are scraped clean, these chemicals are released into the water where they pollute and kill aquatic life.
- Phosphate soaps used to clean boats encourage the rapid over-growth of algae that take oxygen from the water and smother aquatic animals.
- Dumping human sewage into the water can spread disease as well as “fertilize” the water and create algae growth that may kill fish.
- Fuel is frequently spilled as it is poured into the tank. This is toxic for fish and other aquatic animals and plants.
- Trash such as beer cans, styrofoam cups, plastic bags, and fishing line entangles, traps, and injures wildlife. It also is unpleasant for people to see.
- Boats that travel very fast close to shore can create waves that erode the shoreline. Shoreline property owners lose land, and plants and animals also lose habitat they need to survive.



How Can Boaters Protect Puget Sound?

- Consider carefully all the paint, soap, and other materials used on your boat. Read labels and avoid those materials that are toxic to wildlife. Wash boats with phosphate-free soap and control the runoff of soap into waterways.
- Use approved pump-out stations to get rid of human sewage. Dumping untreated sewage into the water is illegal and can result in state fines of up to \$2000. The Coast Guard can fine up to \$10,000 for dumping bilge water or for adding phosphate detergents.
- Keep trash on board until you reach port then properly dispose of it on land.
- Respect the shoreline by slowing down and reducing your wake when within 500 feet of shore.



Changes and Tradeoffs

What tradeoffs must you make in order to help protect Puget Sound?

How do you think these solutions might help Puget Sound?



SEATTLE AQUARIUM

