



# What is a Drift Cell?

## Drift Cell:

A section of shoreline in which sand and gravel naturally move to create beaches

Number of drift cells mapped In Puget Sound = 860

## How do drift cells work?

Number of drift cells in Kitsap County = 132

Each drift cell in Puget Sound includes an area of source beach material, a zone where sediment is transported along the beach by wave action, and an area where gravel and sand are deposited (see example).

Drift cells can be as small as a few hundred feet and as large as 40 miles in length.



## Why are drift cells important?

Drift cells form and maintain beaches which provide recreational opportunities for people and important habitat for beach critters that support our iconic salmon and orcas. Structures like bulkheads alter the flow of sediments, limiting the formation of desirable beach habitat.

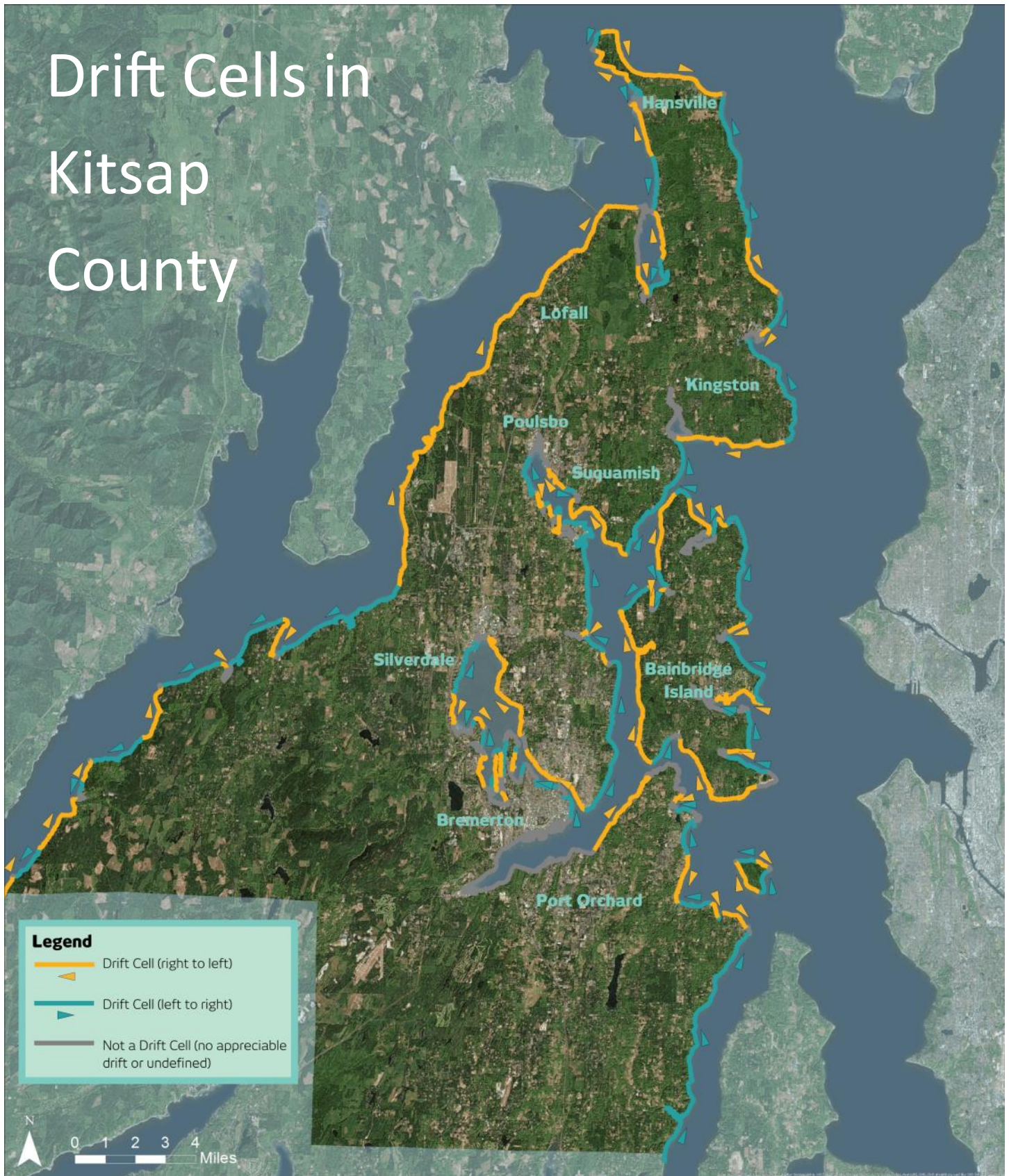


*A pencil-thin sand lance finds refuge on a beach*

For more information about *Shore Friendly Kitsap*, please contact us:

[shorefriendly@kitsap.gov](mailto:shorefriendly@kitsap.gov)

# Drift Cells in Kitsap County



This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC 00J29801 to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

