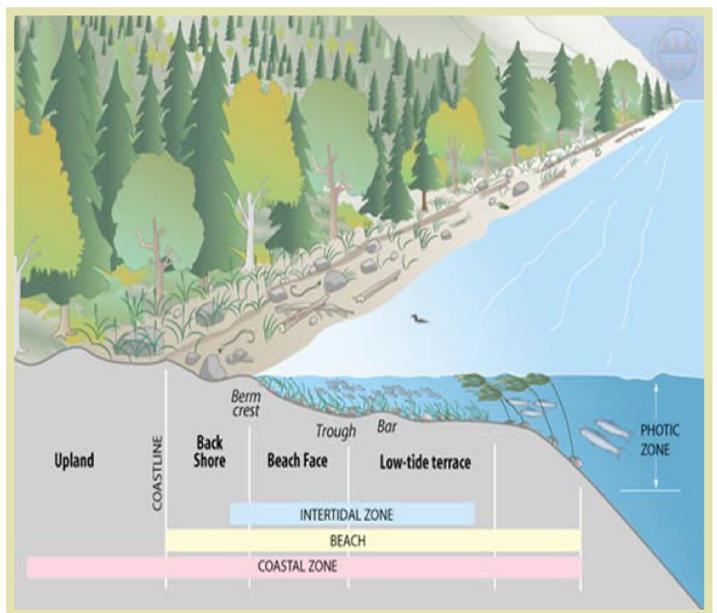


# Enhancing Habitat Along the Elliott Bay Seawall

## Elliott Bay and the Seattle shoreline

The downtown Seattle shoreline is part of Elliott Bay—a vast and complex ecosystem. Before the seawall was built, much of Elliott Bay consisted of upland forested bluffs, mud and sand flats, intertidal marshes, and shallow water.

Elliott Bay was (and still is) host to a diverse group of plants and animals. Starfish, eelgrass, kelp, salmon, tiger shark, dogfish shark, Giant Pacific Octopus, sea lions, harbor seals, and Orcas are part of the dynamic food web of Elliott Bay.



Sea birds



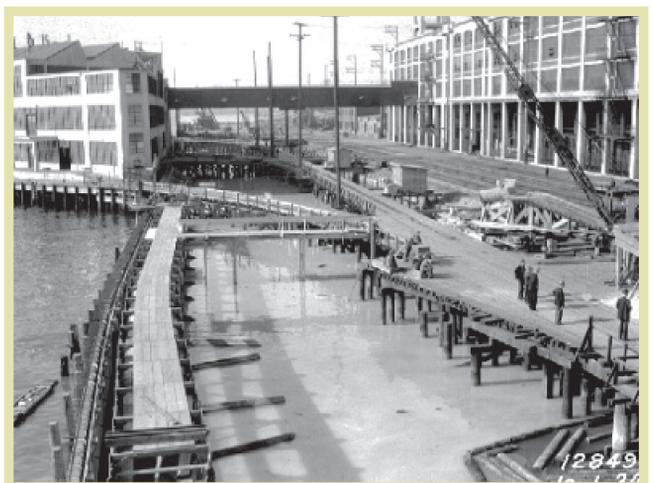
Kelp

## How did the shoreline come to look the way it does today?

Seattle's shoreline has been changing since the late 19th century. Elliott Bay has been filled, piers installed, and a large vertical seawall constructed where mudflats and tide pools had once been.



Railroad Avenue, circa 1934



In spite of these changes to the Elliott Bay shoreline, a marine nearshore community still exists. However, there are fewer types of organisms and fewer individuals along the seawall today.

## What are the opportunities to improve the nearshore habitat?

The project is looking for ways to improve the aquatic habitat around the seawall. Since 2008, the City of Seattle and the University of Washington (funded in part by a grant from the King County Conservation District) are conducting research on how to improve nearshore habitat. This research will inform the design of the new wall.



Habitat panels