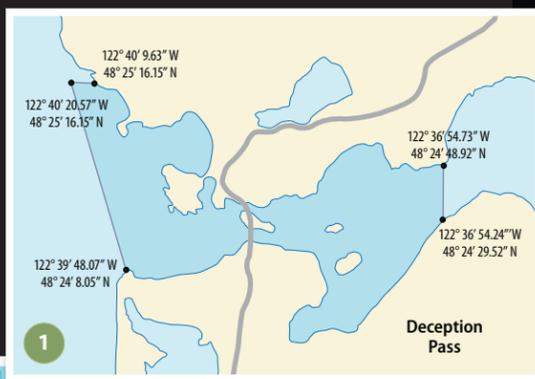
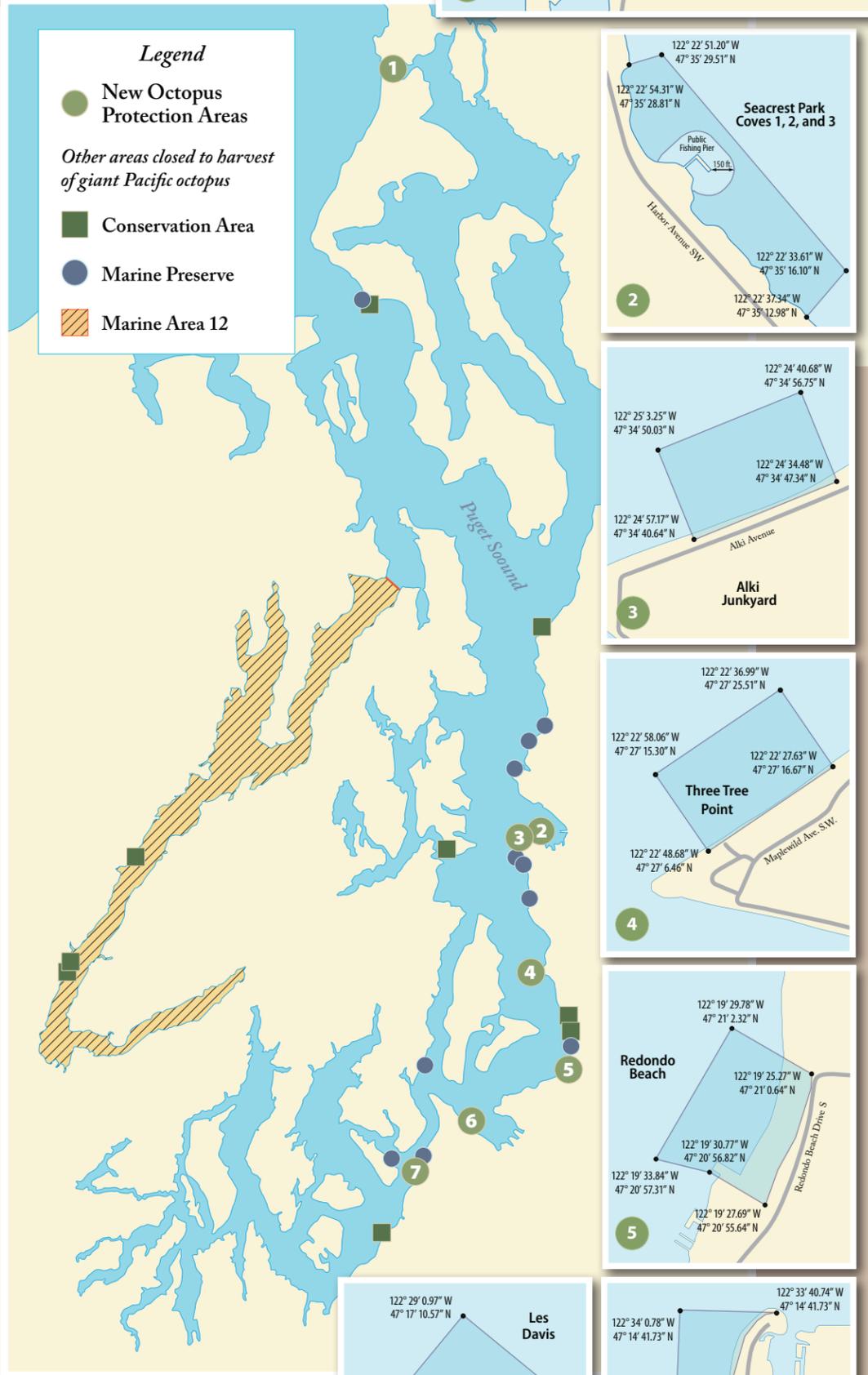


# Diving with Octopuses



**PUGET SOUND** is a prime destination for divers of all levels of experience to explore a diversity of sea life and marine environments. One of the Sound's major attractions is the giant Pacific octopus, the largest of the octopus species. Several popular dive sites in the Sound are now Octopus Protection Areas, offering additional protection for the species. No recreational harvest of octopus is allowed in these areas, giving divers a prime opportunity to see these magnificent animals. Below is a list of those sites.



## 1 – Deception Pass (north of Oak Harbor)

A premier site with steep, spectacular walls covered with invertebrates and home to large fish. It should only be explored by advanced divers with local knowledge, as extremely strong currents make this site dangerous.

## 2 – Seacrest Park Coves 1, 2 and 3 (West Seattle)

This popular urban park near Alki offers three large coves with many different dives to enjoy. There's little current and a range of depths. From its shallow, rocky breakwater to deep technical diving, with small wrecks and lots of sea life available, everyone can find a favorite dive. Good facilities, access and one of the best views of downtown Seattle make it an ideal place for all levels of divers to experience Elliott Bay.

## 3 – Alki Beach Junk Yard (West Seattle)

The Junkyard is located at the west end of Alki Beach Park. It offers a great variety of interesting fish and invertebrates for all levels of divers to enjoy.

## 4 – Three Tree Point (Burien)

This site contains an intriguing diversity of various man-made structures, small boat wrecks and urban remains. The artificial reefs run parallel to shore at two depths. Shallow eel grass grows near the shore. Currents are moderate and tend to run southward. The area can be dived at times other than slack and is a good destination when south winds are blowing.

## 5 – Redondo Beach (Des Moines)

This improved site offers a variety of options for all divers. Access is easy down the stairs to the beach on either side of the wharf that houses Highline College's Aquarium. Swim out and submerge from the ladder on the west end and go down the slope to find small boat wrecks and other man-made reefs, where octopus, sculpins and other fish can be found. The sandy slopes are a good place to spot large skates and dogfish.

## 6 – Les Davis (Tacoma)

Les Davis has been improved and developed for divers in a convenient, urban location along Tacoma's Commencement Bay. The site consists of large slabs of hollowed concrete roadway gathered in large piles at various depths. Do not swim eastward past the tire reef by the fishing pier.

## 7 – Days Island (Tacoma)

A fantastic wall dive that features a variety of marine species, including giant Pacific octopus, wolf eels, dogfish and sea stars. The wall runs parallel to the shore at depths ranging from 25 to 100 feet. Divers should explore the site during a slack tide because of the area's strong currents at tidal exchange.

More information is available on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's website at

[wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/octopus/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/octopus/)



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