

Marine Sciences Laboratory at a Glance

Where is the Marine Sciences Laboratory located? How big is the site?

The Marine Sciences Laboratory is located on Sequim Bay, just off West Sequim Bay Road about 1.5 miles north of the John Wayne Marina. The laboratory site covers 150 acres of uplands and tidelands; about 7.5 acres of the site are developed. Registered with the Washington State Register of Historic Places, the site was originally the Jamestown S’Klallam village of Suxtcikwi’in, from which Sequim, meaning “quiet waters,” gets its name. Before Battelle started building the research facilities on the site in 1967, it was the site of the Bugge Clam Cannery.



As part of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory operated by Battelle, the Marine Sciences Laboratory provides research and development to meet national needs.

Who works at the Marine Sciences Laboratory?

Seventy-five researchers and support staff work at the Marine Sciences Laboratory, including internationally recognized experts in analytical chemistry, wetland and coastal ecology, ecotoxicology and marine remote sensing. Many hold advanced degrees.

Staff members are dedicated to the local communities in which they live, giving their time each year to community service. They serve as adjunct professors, act as mentors for career and job shadow days, participate in local celebrations, and make numerous presentations to civic groups.

What kind of work is done at the Marine Sciences Laboratory?

The Marine Sciences Laboratory helps clients

- Understand the effects of pollutants on marine and freshwater organisms
- Measure trace substances, such as organic chemicals and metals, in the marine environment and develop tests to determine safe levels of the substances
- Assess and restore marine and coastal habitats
- Use satellite information and other remote sensing techniques to map, measure and model what happens in the ocean for use in environmental cleanup, surveys of natural resources, coastal security and emergency response.

Recent projects include helping restore the Northwest Maritime Center dock in Port Townsend. Researchers found ways to help reestablish eelgrass, a critical habitat for young salmon, under the reconstructed dock. They also are working with the Washington State Department of Transportation and others to design, build and run a culvert test facility. The facility will provide information to improve culverts, a major impediment to the passage of young salmon to critical habitat.

In the future, the Marine Sciences Laboratory plans to enhance its environmental assessment business with new, advanced sensor and monitoring techniques; apply environmental capabilities to a growing coastal security market; and tap into the largely unexplored marine environment for novel biotechnologies.

What kinds of facilities and equipment does the Marine Sciences Laboratory offer?

The Marine Sciences Laboratory has three main buildings, two on the beach and one on the bluff overlooking Sequim Bay, plus supporting facilities and equipment. Together the facilities provide 6,000 square feet of analytical and general purpose laboratories and 7,700 square feet of wet or support



Researchers examine crabs that have been entrained during dredging on the Columbia River.

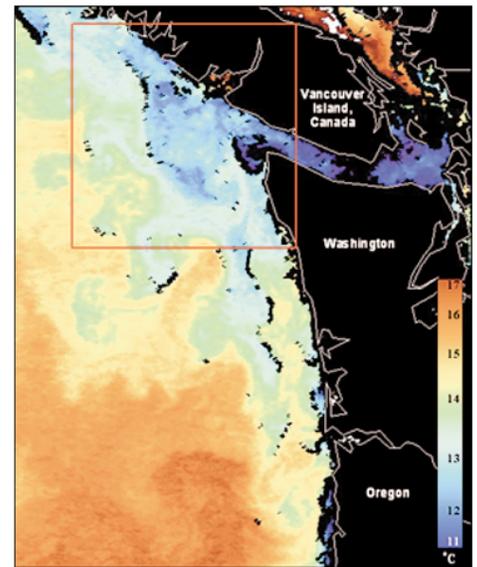
laboratories supplied with heated and cooled freshwater and seawater. The Marine Sciences Laboratory also has a state-of-the-art waste seawater treatment system; a 28-foot research vessel, the “Strait Science,” equipped with the latest electronic equipment; a specialized scientific diving boat; and a full scientific SCUBA dive capacity with six certified divers.

A Facilities Master Plan ensures the site aligns with local and regional development guidelines.

What is the relationship of the Marine Sciences Laboratory to PNNL? To Battelle?

Battelle has operated the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy since 1965. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is one of nine DOE national, multiprogram laboratories.

Battelle has a unique contract with DOE that combines Battelle-owned and government-owned facilities at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory into a single “Consolidated Laboratory.” When Battelle purchased the land for the Marine Sciences Laboratory in 1967, the site became part of the Consolidated Laboratory Agreement. While the Marine Sciences Laboratory facility is owned by Battelle, it is operated within the DOE contract for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The agreement means the Marine Sciences Laboratory can do work for government or private clients.



The Marine Sciences Laboratory is participating in the Olympic Regional Harmful Algal Bloom partnership to investigate the potential mechanisms, such as the Juan de Fuca eddy shown in blue, that are influencing the initiation of harmful algal blooms.

Can I visit the Marine Sciences Laboratory?

Visits to the Marine Sciences Laboratory are by appointment only, and all approved visitors must be badged and escorted.

For more information about the Marine Sciences Laboratory, contact:

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