

## ***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



**Islands Trust**

### **2013 Nominee Profile**

#### **Mayne Island Conservancy Society**

**Category:** Group

**Project:** Shoreline Care Program

**Nominator(s):** Jessica Willows

**Letters of Support:** N/A

#### **Project Description:**

The Mayne Island Conservancy Society's Shoreline Care Program started in 2008. The purpose of the program is long-term monitoring of marine ecosystems. Over the past five years 135 volunteers have contributed 1,300 hours to the project, including children and youth. The intermediate class (Grades 4 – 8) of Mayne Island school is involved in monitoring an intertidal site.

The program has included inventory, mapping and monitoring of Mayne Island eelgrass and kelp bed ecosystems; a base-line study of forage fish spawning on six beaches; a kayak-based bull kelp monitoring methodology, and activities to raise public awareness of the value, significance of near-shore ecosystems and the need to protect them. All program activities have been conducted through knowledge sharing with the Seagrass Conservation Working Group, guided by scientific advisors, with the goal of ensuring results are useful to land use planning and local/ regional conservation initiatives.

The project has led to the development of the Mayne Island Shoreline Atlas which provides a map-based shorezone rating system designed to inform the Local Trust Committee and land-use planners of sensitive marine ecosystems to help them minimize impacts on marine habitats (protection) and to help the community identify areas for future restoration.

This work supports climate change mitigation efforts because eelgrass and kelp beds sequester carbon (blue carbon) in addition to maintaining marine ecosystem health. Mayne Island Conservancy Society minimized the release of carbon from this project by designing its kelp mapping protocol so that the work is done from kayaks.