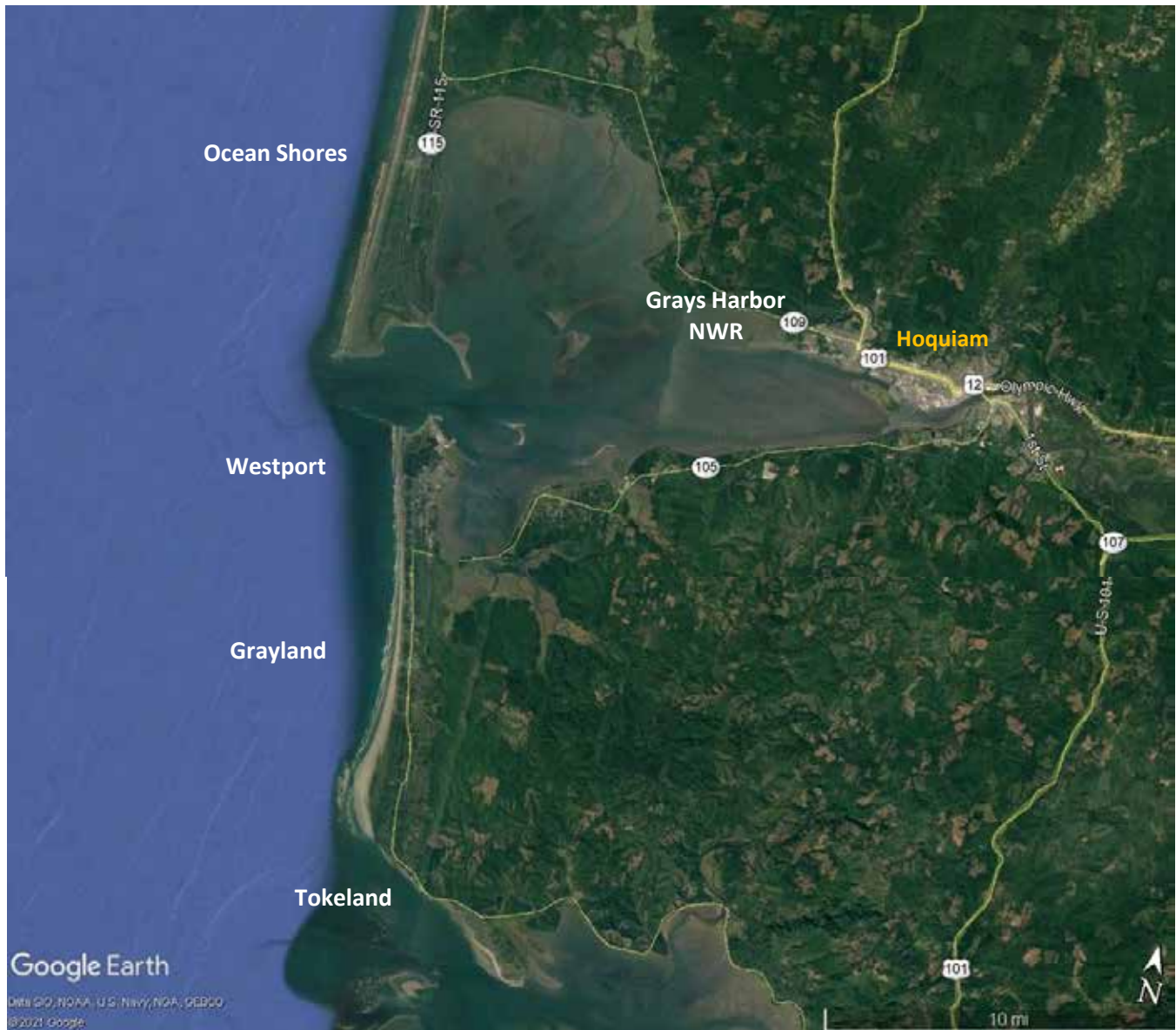


Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival

Birding Sites around Grays Harbor



Grays Harbor is a prime area for viewing shorebirds and other waterbirds during the spring migration with easy access to look in the harbor and along the front beach. [Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge](#) in Hoquiam is ideal for seeing hundreds of thousands of shorebirds from the Sandpiper Trail as shorebirds move in and out of the tidal mudflat around high tide.

If you travel to [Ocean Shores](#) you can make your way down the peninsula using beach accesses until you reach the southern tip (jetty) where a diversity of bird species can be seen. From Hoquiam, travel west on WA-105 and you will begin your own migration with stopover areas to view a diversity of shorebirds, pelagic birds, waterfowl, and even raptors from [Westport](#) to [Grayland](#) and further south to [Tokeland](#). Click on the links included here and you will find directions and information on other bird viewing sites around Grays Harbor. You won't be disappointed at the amazing assemblage of waterbirds as they move northward to their breeding grounds or stick around to breed, like the snowy plovers!

Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival Shorebird Viewing Sites South of Grays Harbor



Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival

Birding Sites in Westport, WA

Bottle Beach State Park



This site has an expansive tidal mudflat and is highly recommended. The best time to view shorebirds is when the tide is coming in and pushes the birds closer to the shoreline.

Shorebirds observed: western sandpipers, short-billed dowitchers, dunlin, black-bellied plovers, semi-palmated plovers, ruddy turnstones, marbled godwits, and red knots.

Westport Marina



Shorebirds take advantage of exposed tidal flats and other birds can be seen on the rock wall protecting the marina and on pilings.

Birds observed: ruddy turnstones, wandering tattlers, grebes, loons, and waterfowl.

West Haven State Park



This site is highly recommended for the diversity of shorebirds that can be viewed along the calmer waters of the inlet and from the rock jetty.

Birds observed: western sandpipers, sanderlings, black turnstones, surfbirds, wandering tattlers, ruddy turnstones, and possibly rock sandpipers. Also keep an eye out for seabirds, loons, and waterfowl.



Road to Half Moon Bay

Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival Birding Sites in Westport, WA



1 - Bottle Beach State Park (Discover Pass) is off WA-105 outside Ocosta, WA, at milepost 34.8. Park and follow the paved walk (Bottle Beach Interpretive Trail) to the mudflats. This is a higher elevation area so the mudflats flood after many other areas are covered with tidal water within the Grays Harbor estuary.

2 – Westport Marina. From State Rt. 105, at milepost 30.7, turn right onto Forrest Street and continue into “downtown” Westport and end at the marina. Park in front of dock “Float 21” at the corner of Wilson Ave., Nyhus St., and 1st Ave. Shorebirds may be seen along the rock wall protecting the marina. From Forrest Street, there are roads going west that will take you to the beach for additional shorebird viewing.

3 - Westhaven State Park (Discover Pass; restrooms): is west of Westport Marina. Drive back to Forrest St., and turn right (north) onto Montesano then left onto Jetty Haul Road (State Park Access Road). Half Moon Bay will be the first parking area before you arrive and the main parking lot is at the end of the road. Walk on the trail over dunes to reach the rock jetty. Watch both the beach side and inlet side for shorebird viewing. Highly recommended.

4 - Ocean Avenue (Discover Pass, restrooms): Drive out of Westport on Forrest St. and turn right onto Ocean Ave. Follow road to the parking lot then walk the paved trail that goes to the beach. This is a good area for viewing shorebirds but can get crowded with people and dogs.

5 – Twin Harbor State Park (Discover Pass): At junction of WA-105 and S. Forrest St., turn west onto Schafer Island Beach Approach and park in the 2nd lot. Walk down path through dunes to the shoreline. Travel south on WA-105 and there are a number of “Beach Access” roads (e.g., Bonge St. with restroom)