

Hudson Point – Port Townsend

Dive site review ©2008 by Richard Zade

This site is easy to find. Simply drive through town till you see the American legion hall on the left. Park on the street and enter via the boat ramp and surface swim or wade to the east side of the new pier.

Hudson point is a rich and diversified environment with many things to see for all levels but keep in mind it is a current dependent site and can change rapidly. Currents can be from nothing to above 3 knots and intensify as you get closer to the end of the jetty with the prevailing direction being outward toward the channel. Please use the current table and NOT the tides as they do not match up. There is little to see beyond the barge and lots of boat traffic in and out of the marina. If you get caught out there when the current cranks up you will have a tough swim back or a long walk around the marina so I advise making the barge your dive limit in this direction. Keep in mind also that this is a windy exposed area. If the wind is coming from the south or south west this spot can get very rough quite quickly. I have seen three foot surf here many times with huge logs bouncing off the pier and jetty.

1. Old metal barge broken in two. Lots of life but be gentle it is rusting badly and in danger of caving in.
2. Jetty rock pile. There are many species of sea life here including many types of fish, nudibranchs, crabs, Giant Pacific Octopus and plant life. Please try to be kind to all the many tiny critters by keeping off of the rocks as much as possible and watching where you place your hands.
3. Rope leading down slope to 100 ft or more. There are logs rocks and manmade objects along this route and many discarded bottles, some of which may be quite old if you're lucky and observant. Also look close for baby octos and gunnels in and around all these objects including in the bottles. Make sure if you decide to collect bottles to leave all the critters behind
4. This is the Dolphin, it is a WW2 anchor point for the submarine nets that protected Puget sound from enemy subs. It is alive with anemones giant barnacles and lots of other interesting life.
5. Rock pile, comprised of smaller rocks than the jetty and in shallower water it doesn't have as much life but still worth a close look during the winter months when the marine growth allows.
6. Eel grass area, depending on season this can be very active or very bland. Late summer and early fall before the winter storms hit is best here. Lots of gunnels hanging from the grass and hooded nudibranchs in late fall.
7. Finger pier, this is only here from early spring to late fall to give access to rental sailboats and the occasional powerboat. Please be careful in this area. It is removed for the winter months.

There is not much to see west of the new pier. Be aware there is a boat launch on the west side of the new pier. It is not heavily used but this is an area to exercise caution especially on weekends and during the salmon runs.