What are nearshore ecosystems?

Nearshore ecosystems are places where the land meets Puget Sound.

Shoreline features important to both humans and wildlife make up the nearshore ecosystem. Here are a few:

- River Deltas
- Barrier Embayments
- Coastal Inlets
- Beaches/Bluffs

Puget Sound is a large inland sea (fjord) with 16 major river deltas and 2,500 miles of shoreline.

Coastal bluffs are a source of sand and gravel to Puget Sound beaches.

Offshore kelp and eelgrass beds provide food and shelter for juvenile salmon and marine birds.

Beaches are important for commercial, recreational, and tribal shellfish harvesting.

Pacific salmon use Nearshore habitats for rearing and migration.