

Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) Executive Committee Meeting Agenda



January 28, 2026

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

BOCC Conference Room

Those interested in attending the meetings virtually may use the following link:

ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/91965945479?pwd=7MQGsxk55V0bWpce7TuDfgPj9aI6bL1>

Passcode: 913256 or by telephone: 1-253-215-8782 **Webinar ID:** 919 6594 5479 **Passcode:** 913256

Agenda Item	Lead/Presenter	Time
Introductions and open meeting, review of agenda (Discussion)	Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair	11:00 – 11:05
Approval of Minutes (Motion)	Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair	11:05
Request for endorsement for Ex-Officio member and alternate on Ecosystem Coordination Board (Motion)	Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair	11:05
Update from Puget Sound Partnership (Discussion)	Jason Lim, PSP Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator	11:05 – 11:10
Updates from last few months, meetings, developments and funding opportunities at local, regional, state, federal level (Discussion)	Jen Schmitz, Island County Natural Resources Manager/ILIO Coordinator	11:10 – 11:25
Overview of Cumulative Effects Evaluation in Whidbey Basin project (Discussion)	Jen Schmitz, Island County Natural Resources Manager/ILIO Coordinator	11:25 – 11:35
Update on OSS Mapping Project with ESA	Jen Schmitz, Island County Natural Resources Manager/ILIO Coordinator	11:35 – 11:45
Roundtable/Final Thoughts (Discussion)	All	11:45 – 11:55
Close Meeting	Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair	11:55

Note for Webinar Participants: if you are online and would like to provide public comment, please raise your virtual hand and turn on your camera when called upon by the Chair.

Upcoming Meetings:

Puget Sound Partnership Salmon Recovery Council – 1/22, All Day (Virtual)

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel – 2/4, All Day (Virtual)

Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board – 2/26, All Day (Virtual)

Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council – 3/5 (Olympia)

Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2025

11:00 am – 12:00 pm



Committee Members Present: Commissioner St. Clair (Chair), Commissioner Johnson, Mayor Wright, Mayor Hughes, Sabrina Combs, Jason Lim (Online), Todd Zackey (Online)

Item/Topic/Outcome	Time
Open Meeting: Introductions and open meeting, review of agenda	11.32
Jason Lim gave an update from Puget Sound Partnership. Jen and Jason gave further updates from last few months, meetings, developments and funding opportunities at a local, regional, state, federal level.	11.38
Discussion and endorsement of the top potential projects for consideration for ILIO funding and the Healthy Shorelines Target Action Plan. Options 1, 7 and 9 were chosen as the top priorities.	11.42
Close Meeting: Roundtable/Final Thoughts (Discussion)	12:24

January 28, 2026

RE: Change to Ecosystem Coordination Board Membership



To the Puget Sound Partnership,

The Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) Executive Committee requests that the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) formalize the following membership changes to the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) roster:

- 1) Appoint Jen Schmitz, Island County Natural Resources Manager/LIO Coordinator, to another term as the Ex-Officio representative for the Whidbey Basin, effective July 1, 2026.
- 2) Replace Jessica Reed, former WRIA 6 Lead Entity Coordinator, with Quinn Farr, incoming WRIA 6 Lead Entity Coordinator, effective immediately.

The ILIO Executive Committee endorses these individuals as representatives on the ECB.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Date: _____

Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Chair
Island Local Integrating Organization Executive Committee



How do we know if Puget Sound ecosystem recovery is on the right track?

To ensure Puget Sound recovery is on the track and to fine tune our recovery plans, we need new evaluation methods that link recovery efforts to ecosystem outcomes across geographic footprints and various time frames. The Puget Sound region produces an abundance of habitat and species data which we can leverage to evaluate recovery progress. Innovative synthesis and evaluation methods exist that can integrate aspects of cumulative effects to illustrate how ecosystem benefits are produced by recovery efforts and aid our understanding of restoration outcomes and research investments.

Cumulative effects, cumulative knowledge

The Puget Sound Partnership is developing an evaluation framework to answer large-scale scientific, programmatic, and policy questions that arise from ecosystem recovery. The framework uses Puget Sound's extensive monitoring data and scientific research to identify what interventions are most effective for achieving our collective recovery goals and to better understand ecosystem processes associated with ecosystem recovery by using a scalable, evidence-based approach.

Cumulative Effects Mode	Definition and Example	Cumulative Effects Mode	Definition and Example
COMPOUNDING	Effects arise from multiple sources or pathways. Pollutants are reduced due to the “Don’t Drip and Drive” outreach campaign and local street sweeping programs	THRESHOLD	Effects trigger a fundamental change in system behavior or structure Eelgrass restoration improves water clarity to a point where the meadow flourishes.
INDIRECT	Effects have secondary consequences. Reconnected wetlands export macro-invertebrates that fish consume at locations downstream.	LANDSCAPE PATTERN	Effects result in defragmentation or the reverse Dike breaches and realigned levees reconnect floodplain habitat with mainstream rivers.
CROSS BOUNDARY	Effects occur away from the source. Removal of shoreline armoring reconnects feeder bluffs and facilitates sand transport across a littoral cell.	SPACE CROWDING	Effects have high spatial density. The spatial density of green infrastructure projects influences their overall effectiveness at the watershed scale.
TIME LAGS	Effects are delayed. Riparian plantings take time to grow and mature before providing shade to reduce water temperature.	TIME CROWDING	Effects are frequent or repetitive. Rain gardens treat storm water during recurring runoff events.

Hypothetical examples of eight cumulative effects modes using Puget Sound-specific recovery examples. Each mode will be further evaluated to demonstrate the effectiveness of implemented actions across a landscape. Adapted from Diefenderfer et al. (2020)¹.

¹ Diefenderfer, H., G. Steyer, M. Harwell, A. LoSchiavo, H. Neckles, D. Burdick, G. Johnson, K. Buenau, E. Trujillo, J. Callaway, R. Thom, N. Ganju, and R. Twilley. 2020. Applying cumulative effects to strategically advance large-scale ecosystem restoration. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. doi:10.1002/fee.2274

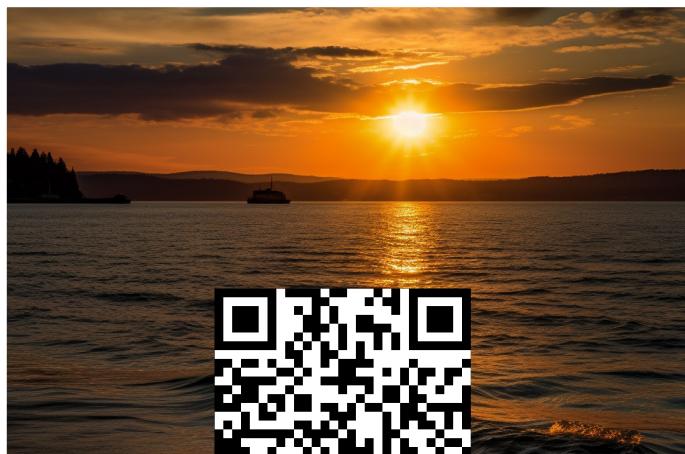


The evaluation of cumulative effects informs the system of recovery planning and adaptive management.

Cumulative effects evaluation results are intended to guide adaptive management and decision-making. Evaluation results provide feedback on the effectiveness of management strategies and help inform decisions about the best course of action to take in the future.

Evaluations of cumulative effects can inform Puget Sound ecosystem recovery by:

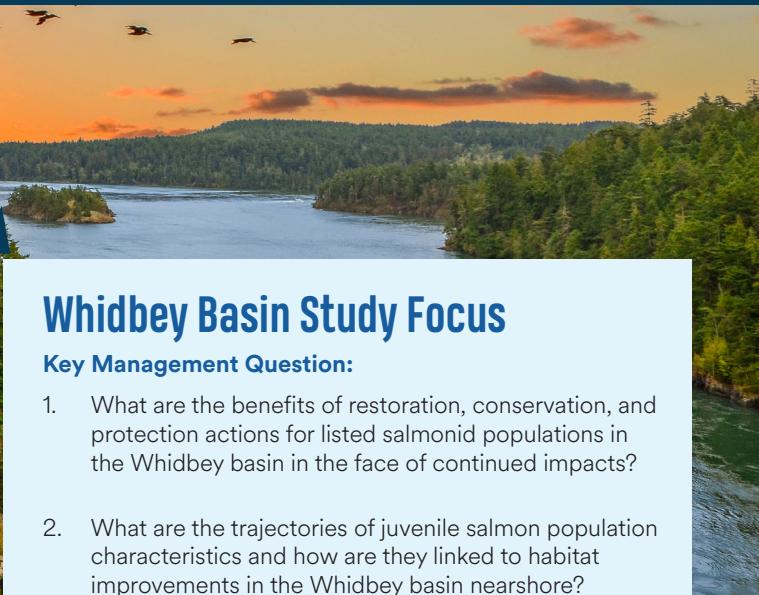
- Describing linkages between recovery actions and ecosystem outcomes
- Connecting ecosystem outcomes to recovery planning and implementation efforts at various scales
- Addressing natural management and scientific uncertainties relevant to ecosystem recovery
- Informing or adjusting ongoing restoration and monitoring efforts.



STAY CONNECTED

Subscribe here for news and announcements on the Whidbey basin cumulative effects study.

SUBSCRIBE



Puget Sound's Whidbey basin is an important area for salmon recovery and conservation efforts. Over decades, hundreds of habitat restoration projects, ongoing monitoring, and targeted research studies have been implemented to benefit salmon populations. Yet, scientists and managers remain limited in understanding how restoration and protection actions translate to salmon population outcomes. New evaluation methods are needed to connect recovery efforts to population outcomes, understand successes or failures, and guide future work. Evaluation of Whidbey basin can be further leveraged to foster understanding of recovery progress across the Puget Sound region.

A comprehensive evaluation of salmon recovery efforts in Whidbey basin nearshore habitats is underway.

As the first evidence-based evaluation of restoration in Puget Sound at the landscape or seascape scale, this study is evaluating the cumulative effects of nearshore habitat restoration intended to improve critical habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon in the Whidbey basin. Multiple lines of evidence will be used to test hypotheses regarding cumulative restoration increases in availability and structure of intertidal habitats, and juvenile Chinook salmon distribution benefits for multiple river-delta systems. Evidence gathered will be used to develop inferences regarding cause-and-effect relationships between restoration actions and salmon and ecosystem responses. By understanding how salmon benefit from habitats across the landscape—from estuaries through the nearshore—we can better guide habitat restoration and protection efforts in the region.

Through 2025, the research team will perform a systematic literature review and meta-analyses of relevant studies across the basin, synthesize existing data to address specific study hypotheses, use a causal analysis framework to incorporate multiple lines of evidence to test study hypotheses and inform future restoration planning with the results.

Whidbey Basin Study Focus

Key Management Question:

1. What are the benefits of restoration, conservation, and protection actions for listed salmonid populations in the Whidbey basin in the face of continued impacts?
2. What are the trajectories of juvenile salmon population characteristics and how are they linked to habitat improvements in the Whidbey basin nearshore?

Hypothesis: Restoration and protection actions benefit Chinook salmon demography and are contingent on life-history variation, the spatial structure of the Whidbey basin, and external factors that drive habitat conditions.

Geographic area Whidbey basin nearshore

Focal life stage Juvenile Chinook salmon outmigrants

Habitat types Nearshore beaches, deltas, embayments, intertidal and subtidal areas

Study Timeframe 1990s to present

Whidbey Basin Study Research Team:

Mike LeMoine, Skagit River System Cooperative

Josh Chamberlain, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Correigh Greene, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Jason Hall, Cramer Fish Sciences

Kathryn Sobocinski, Western Washington University

Todd Zackey, Tulalip Tribes of Washington

STAY CONNECTED

Subscribe here for news and announcements on the Whidbey basin cumulative effects study.



SUBSCRIBE