



WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

December 18, 2024

Member Participants: James Watson (WCD), Fred Kiga, Kathleen Landel, Barbara Brock, Kurt Shlimme and Melissa Holm(WCLT), Hannah Booth (WDFW), Todd Zackey(co-chair), Mathew Lander, Kathleen Landel, **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Yuki Rice (SFEG), Jessica Reed, Carlie Miller, Jen Schmitz, John Lanier, Jason Lim (PSP), Joe Grogan(ilio), Heidi Stewart(Tulalip), Krysta Loescher(ilio), Brian Tyhuis (ilio)

Introductions & Updates

Clea's last meeting as Lead Entity Coordinator and announcement that Jessica Reed, Watershed Planner, will be taking over the position.

DNR manager, Jen Schmitz, updates on ILIO, PSP structure and connection on ILIO and LE's to the partnership. 10 LIOs in the Puget Sound and 16 Lead Entity Coordinators. Review our positions on the PSP boards, ECB and the SRC with funding from the NEP program (<https://www.psp.wa.gov/NEP-funding.php>) . Reviewed what Island Local Integrating Organization is and how our committees work together and differences in committee structure. Thanks to ILIO members for attending this meeting and anticipating collaboration in 2025. See ILIO website for updates, agenda, and minutes or other ILIO information- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/348/Island-Local-Integrating-Organization>. The mission of the Island LIO is to achieve ecosystem recovery and improve resilience for the Island watershed through collaboration between multiple stakeholders. The ILIO weaves together strengths of existing watershed groups, tribes, and government agencies to facilitate and integrate environmental project development, planning and implementation. The ILIO is comprised of an Executive Committee (EC) made up of elected officials from the watershed as well as tribal representatives, and a Technical Committee (TC) staffed by the DNR manager.

Administrative -The November meeting minutes were approved.

Discussion

Yuki from Skagit Fisheries Enhancement group shares updates on Race Lagoon area project mini grant. This project has had to change course as a result of the 2024 SRFB RCO review panel only supporting one of the Race Road culvert replacements. Because only one stream is having the barrier removed, a stream restoration project will be held off until there is a plan for both streams. There is still habitat and riparian work that can be done to support the habitat and outreach to local property owners. PLAN A (if no cultural survey is required): Develop wetland planting plan, Purchase plants, Organize community planting event in March 2025 (using SFEG volunteers, and volunteer community members) PLAN B (if we are told we would need to complete cultural survey prior to planting): Develop wetland planting plans, Site visits as needed with community, Complete cultural surveys And hope we could find other funding for planting next year. Last of the minig-rants with funding tied to Lead Entity contract.

James does a quick overview of Wetfeet farming being promoted by the Whidbey and Snohomish Conservation Districts. See website for more information- Bountiful Buffers and Wet Feet Farming-

<https://snohomishcd.org/events-workshops/2024/3/14/wet-feet-farming-webinar>

<https://www.scc.wa.gov/stories/bountiful-buffers> <https://www.whidbeycd.org/farm-ranch.html>

Todd shares an update on Whidbey Basin Study- 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.

<https://psp.wa.gov/cumulative-effects.php>

Puget Sound Partnership updates- Collaborates with federal, tribal, state, and local partners to develop regional and local salmon recovery plans as part of the [Action Agenda for Puget Sound](#).

Supports lead entities and project sponsors to implement restoration and acquisition projects, advance priority recovery efforts through the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, and manage the [Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration \(PSAR\) fund](#). Tracks and reports change using the Common Indicators" and [Vital Signs](#).

Shared information on recent PSP meetings with update regarding meetings Jen attends including ECB, Leadership Council. Salmon Recovery Council, which Jessica will be taking over the alternate position. Addendum to the 2007 Regional Chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan- <https://pssalmonhub.wa.gov/pages/salmon-addendum>

Unpermitted shoreline armoring being discussed at meetings. Senate Bill 5014- Ecology must conduct and maintain a baseline survey of Puget Sound marine shorelines that uses new technology to capture geo-referenced oblique aerial and 360 degree on-the-water imagery. The software used for the imagery must have the capacity for change analysis review. The initial marine oblique aerial and on-the-water imagery must be completed and publicly available by December 31, 2024. By June 30, 2025, a survey to document and map existing shoreline conditions, structures, and structure conditions must be completed. Both surveys must be updated on a regular two-year cycle. The information from the surveys must be available to the public and incorporated into state geographic information system mapping, with visual personally identifiable information removed from on-the-water imagery prior to posting. Ecology and DFW must each maintain a record of all civil or criminal investigations or enforcement actions in which Ecology or DFW, respectively, is a participant that utilize geo-referenced imagery or surveys produced pursuant to the act. Bill was introduced DECEMBER 2022! Armor Surveys-San Juans 2009-2019 and Island 2016-2023<https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Htm/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5104%20SBR%20AWNP%20OC%2023.htm>

Stillaguamish- the 2023 imagery is up and ready to pick through. If you are unfamiliar, it is like Google StreetView for the river. The images are all 360 degrees and there is WQ data associated with most photos. Please let me know if you notice anything amiss in the 2023 imagery tour (link above). I am working to get a year label up top so you can easily distinguish the 2023 tour from the 2017 tour (link below):

<https://arcgis.earthviews.com/public/stillaguamish-main#1326> (2017)

ARMORING- Unpermitted armoring in Puget Sound- <https://wa.audubon.org/news/unpermitted-shoreline-armoring-threatens-puget-sound> San Juan Armoring- <https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/1937/LIO-SJ-Projects>

Senate Bill- <https://legiscan.com/WA/supplement/SB5104/id/404103> MRC armoring survey-

<https://www.islandcountymrc.org/media/oqidnhsh/071724-shoreline-armoring-survey-and-permit-analysis.pdf>

WRIA 6 has armor removal goals in our Multi-Species Salmon Recovery Plans- [Island County Salmon Recovery Plan Update 2019](#) and [Water Resources Inventory Area 6 \(Whidbey & Camano Islands\) Multi-species Salmon Recovery Plan 2005](#) Shared some past SRTCC supported and ranked projects in the past 10 years.

2025 Grant round- Announcement that March 12th will be the site visit date for 2025. Reviewed timeline for grant rounds in general with final update of 2025, RFP, timeline, LOI form and handbook for sponsors. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Request for proposals (RFP)for 2025 WRIA 6 grant round was advertised and

available on December 13th. This is expected to be a small funding year around two hundred and seventeen thousand in SRFB allocation. Please check our website for details- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT>

Project sponsors are encouraged to contact the Island Lead Entity coordinator to discuss their intention to apply and for important application process details. In addition to the Island Lead Entity requirements, please review the state Salmon Recovery Grant Manual 18 for eligibility requirements and project details. Please note – site visits will be conducted in person. Letters of Intent are required and due to the Lead Entity Coordinator by January 13, 2025. A RCO PRISM project number is not required for this initial step. The template is available at:

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT> Full applications are required and due in PRISM by February 18, 2025. A PRISM Project Number is required to apply in PRISM. Please contact the Lead Entity Coordinator by February 15, 2025 to acquire this number. Please contact the coordinator for timelines and application process details. Successful grants are awarded through Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Contact Information: Jessica Reed J.Reed@islandcountywa.gov

Shared information on recent meetings and reports-

- “Fish and the Farm Bill” panel, co-hosted by the Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. A recording of the discussion is now available on the TVW online archive here: <https://tvw.org/video/puget-sound-partnership-2024121078/>
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Meeting- SRFB’s meeting will be on December 18, 2024 from 9am-4:30pm and on December 19, 2024 from 9-11am. [Information and registration here.](#)
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups yearly reports- <https://regionalfisheriescoalition.org/about-us/annual-reports/>
- Visit the [Puget Sound Recovery Acceleration Funding Tool](#) (PS RAFT) for more funding information about current funding opportunities, including eligibility, deadlines, and scope.

Review ESRP announcement of projects- Status of Double Bluff- <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/esrp-2025-2027-preliminary-investment-plan.pdf>

Share latest research and funding information- Restoring Pocket Estuaries Key to Puget Sound Chinook Recovery in Washington - With funding from [NOAA’s Office of Habitat Conservation](#), the [Skagit River System Cooperative](#) (SRSC) and many partners are restoring the Similk pocket estuary for Skagit River Chinook. In 2023 and 2024, the Cooperative was awarded \$5.8 million through the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act](#) for salmon habitat restoration work in Washington State. NOAA has supported restoration work on the Skagit River and other locations in Puget Sound for decades. Learn more here- https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/restoring-pocket-estuaries-key-puget-sound-chinook-recovery-washington?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

A new report by University of Washington scientist Thomas Quinn looks at the different ways that adult salmon and trout use Puget Sound's estuaries and why this matters for ecosystem recovery. The report was commissioned by the University of Washington Puget Sound Institute with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program. Download "[The role of estuaries in the ecology of adult Pacific salmon and trout](#)" on the Encyclopedia of Puget Sound.

The Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program has released its 13th annual overview of Puget Sound's marine water conditions. [The report](#). Urban Estuary study- <https://cdnsciencepub.com/doi/full/10.1139/cjfas-2020-0247> Whidbey Basin update- HSIL grant awarded <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/2024/07/09/sil-2024-investment->

plan/ See Investment List for details of Whidbey Basin project- Building Reliable Habitat Restoration Information in the Whidbey Basin Lead entities (LEs). Whidbey Basin LEs requested funding as a group to transform their existing database into a useful and comparable tool necessary to meet our Basin's and PSP's planning and communication goals.

Review of WRIA 6 watershed plan and projects ranked over the past 4 years-

2020/21- 20-1134 Livingston Bay ESRP -

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=20-1134>

2020/21- 21-1066 Hoypus Point – SRFB -

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=21-1066>

2022- 22-1085 Keystone- SRFB, PSAR, ESRP (cost increase WRIA 6 PSAR 2023, cost increase 2024 PSAR large and ESRP) <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=22-1085>

2022- 22- 1089 - Race Lagoon culvert fish passage- SRFB and PSAR -

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=22-1089>

2023- Middle Crescent Creek- SRFB

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=23-1081>

2023- Crescent Riparian- Skagit funded

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/PRISM/Sponsor/Project/Brief/Index/23-1186>

2024- Livingston Bay protection- SRFB and Riparian

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1118>

2024- Cultus Bay- SRFB and PSAR

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1274>

2024- Race Culvert replacement- PSAR and ½ funding from Skagit

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1117>

2024- Double Bluff protection- ESRP and PSAR Large or Target Investment

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1200>

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1119>

2024- Maylor Marsh Enhancement- Skagit project-

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1734>

- SOUND WATERS UNIVERSITY- <https://soundwaterstewards.org/education-center/sound-waters-university/>
- The Salmon Recovery Conference 2025 has been cancelled- <https://rco.wa.gov/salmon-recovery/salmon-recovery-conference/>

NEXT -January- review 2025 Grant round Letters of Intent. Meeting adjourned 4pm.

