

Island Local Integrating Organization Technical Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Information

Meeting Date:	November 9, 2021		
Meeting Time:	1:00pm-3:00pm		
Meeting Location:	Zoom		
Meeting Attendees:	Jenn Johnson (ILIO Coordinator/IC DNR Manager)	John Lovie (SRTCC, WRAC)	Ann Prusha (IC DNR)
	Sage Ince (IC EH)	PaulBen McElwain (SWS)	Joseph Grogan (Town of Coupeville)
	Clea Barenburg (IC DNR)	Dennis Lefevre (City of Oak Harbor)	Laura Rivas (PSP)
	Stan Walsh (SRSC)	Meredith Penny (City of Langley)	Gwendolyn Hannam (WICD)
	Barbara Bennett (MRC)	Krista Loercher (Ports/Business)	
Meeting Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of October meeting minutes • Discussion of the updates and outcomes from regional discussions and their relation to Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO). • Sharing opportunities to engage at the regional level. • Discussion of takeaways and identifying key barriers to address in ecosystem recovery planning. 		
	Total Time:	120 minutes	

Minutes

Topic:	Introductions, Minutes Approval, Partner Updates	Action Item Owner:	Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oct. meeting notes were approved. • There was interest in a Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) representative providing an overview of the State of the Sound report. 		
Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenn will send out the information for the Climate Change (CC) Impacts in the Salish Sea workshop series when they are available, as well as the Salmon Recovery Coordinator position information. 		
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting notes for Oct. were approved. • Coordinator's updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upcoming events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reimaging Climate Solutions – Nov. 10. ▪ Thurston Climate Action Team events – multiple dates: https://thurstonclimateaction.org/upcoming-events/. ▪ Developing a Local Climate Action Strategy: Approaches for Washington Local Governments – Nov. 15. ▪ Regional Climate Resilience and Mitigation University of Washington (UW) Tacoma Public Talk Series – Mondays at 12:30: https://washington.zoom.us/j/91654731698. ▪ MRC events - Climate Change Impacts in the Salish Sea – Nov. 18. This is part of a series of upcoming events, and the rest will take place from 3:30 to 5pm on Dec. 16, Jan. 20, and Feb. 17. Please email Jenn or Ann if you are interested in attending. ▪ Salmon Recovery Council – Nov. 18 		

- Commissioner St. Clair Town Hall – “Let’s Talk about Fish” – Dec. 2 at 4:30pm
 - Updates
 - The PSP State of the Sound report is out. The group expressed interest in a PSP representative providing an overview at the next meeting.
 - The Island County (IC) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Salmon Recovery Coordinator position should post this week. Jenn will send out the job announcement. Please share it widely. Nov.’s Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting is canceled.
 - On Dec. 1, there will be a presentation to the Board of Island County Commissioners (BICC) around recommendations regarding reducing emissions/addressing climate in IC, with a focus on electrification and land use. Jenn will provide the report when it is out.
 - Forestry updates – IC Public Works (PW) will be looking into the 6 year moratorium, IC Planning is reevaluating the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs), and IC DNR is tasked with expanding outreach and examining Conservation Futures funding (CFF). Laura and Jenn are also having discussions at the regional level with Habitat and Stormwater Strategic Initiative Leads (SILs).
 - The [Clean Vessel Act Grant Program](#) provides up to 75% reimbursement, and the deadline is Jan. 21.
 - [2022 ESRP Regional Pre-Design Grant Program Request for Proposals](#) is out.
- Other updates/announcements (for the group)
 - The Whidbey Island and Snohomish Conservation Districts (WICD and SnoCD) are hosting a couple of training opportunities for raingarden workshops on Nov. 18 and 23. Landowners are welcome. [Learn more here](#).
 - Washington Seagrant is hosting an in-person workshop on marine weather in Port Townsend – Dec. 4: <https://wsg.washington.edu/event/marine-weather-workshop-in-port-townsend/>.
- PSP Updates
 - Paper Authorship - David Trimbach is in the process of taking the shoreline part of the community survey/findings and drafting a manuscript for Landscape Research. He would like to ensure all who contributed are credited and listed as a contributing author. This project would not have happened without ILIO member input and contributions, whether helping draft the [survey](#) or helping get flyers out. If you would like to be included, to please contact him at: [david.trimbach@oregonstate.edu](mailto: david.trimbach@oregonstate.edu). If you want to be included, all he needs at a minimum is your full name, professional organization or place of work (whether voluntary or employment), and contact (email address). If you have questions or concerns or would like to see the finalized draft, also please contact him.
 - The [State of the Sound](#) was released on Nov. 1. It speaks to 4 themes this year: how is the Sound is doing, what are the challenges, what gives us hope, and what can we do. Although the work we are doing is making a difference, we need to do more. Most of the Vital Signs (VS) are staying the same or getting worse. The Leadership Council is calling for 5 bold actions.
 - PSP is changing the way they share information about the Legislative Calendar. This change is coming just in time for the upcoming Legislative Committee Days (Nov. 15-19) during which legislators will hold virtual hearings and work sessions to plan for the 2022 legislative session. The 2022 session is scheduled to begin on Jan. 10. See the updated PSP webpage [here](#) and the interactive legislative calendar [here](#).
 - The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R.3684) passed both houses on Nov. 5 and was presented to the president for signature on Nov. 8. The bill outlines extensive increased funding for salmon and ecosystem recovery. Read more about it in Sen. Cantwell’s [press release](#) or the [bill](#) itself.
 - Updates to indicators – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is reporting for the first time on the indicators [bivalve harvester-days](#) and [recreational Dungeness crab catch](#) for the local foods vital sign. The bivalve harvester-days indicator reports the number of people recreationally harvesting clams or oysters each year at 34 public beaches across Puget Sound (PS). Most people harvest shellfish at beaches in the Hood Canal or North Sound regions. For the recreational Dungeness crab catch indicator, over 200,000 people purchase a license to harvest

	<p>Dungeness crab in PS each year. However, an increasing number of harvest closures due to low crab populations have been in effect in South and Central PS since 2015. Total harvest and endorsements issued have also declined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Marine Waters Work Group tenth annual report on marine water conditions in PS is out. Conditions in PS were generally warmer, sunnier, and wetter in 2020 but not extreme. There were no fish kills or strong hypoxia events reported. Ocean acidification in PS waters continues as our understanding of patterns grows. Biological responses to changing conditions vary; there is some good news and some bad news. 		
Topic:	Action Identification Workshops – Share-out & Next Steps	Action Item Owner:	Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):			
Follow-up Items:			
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Identification Workshops – Round 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share-out & feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Round 1 started last week. There were many participants in each workshop so far. There is one tomorrow on food webs and human activities. ▪ Jenn shared an example of one of the Mural boards from a workshop. PSP will lock the boards and send the links. Everyone will be able to see all of the boards and all of the strategies. There is time to provide feedback – you can email Jenn or PSP if you see something missing. ▪ The group discussed their experiences participating, which were positive – there was a lot of representation of other agencies and different perspectives. The conversations were productive. ○ Next Steps: If anyone is unable to participate in the series of AA workshops but would like to contribute comments on the high level actions and intermediate steps as if you had, all are invited to send thoughts and feedback on the workshop discussion materials to the Planning Team by Dec. 10; email action.agenda@psp.wa.gov. Comments received via e-mail will be compiled with comments from the workshops to contribute to the final product. You can also email Jenn. ○ For those who did not sign up for round 1 but want to take part in round 2, you can register here. If you register, please let Jenn know if you do not get a calendar invite and she will share it with you. ○ This is a great opportunity to share local needs and priorities to the state representative. Upcoming workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A: Smart growth and development – Nov. 30 ▪ B: Working Lands – Dec. 1 ▪ C: Marine habitat protection and restoration – Dec. 2 ▪ D: Freshwater habitat protection and restoration – Dec. 3 ▪ E: Water quality – Dec. 7 ▪ F: Food webs and human activities – Dec. 8 ○ This will be presented to the state council for voting and approval, and we will use it to update our Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP). 		
Topic:	Regional Conversations & Engagement	Action Item Owner:	Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):			

Follow-up Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenn will follow up with links to join Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) and Strategic Initiative Advisory Team (SIAT) groups. 		
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenn gave an overview of the PSEMP work groups. There are several and it would be great for Technical Committee (TC) members to attend meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroups include: diseases, forage fish and the food web, fresh water, marine birds, marine mammals, marine waters, modeling, nearshore, salmonids, special data, stormwater, and toxics. These groups are different from others in the system; they synthesize local data to tell a regional story. Jenn will follow up with more information. SIAT “vocal locals” have extended applications, if anyone is interested in joining. They will look at applications the first week of Dec. Jenn will follow up with more information. 		
Topic:	IC Summit Recap and Barrier Discussion	Action Item Owner:	Jenn
Decisions Made and Action Item(s):			
Follow-up Items:			
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you to everyone who participated in the IC Summit. Key takeaways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As we plan for next steps we will aim to look at a broader, watershed-based scale for future projects. We need to have all voices included in the conversation and will work towards creating a “multi-benefit” or “reach-scale” approach similar to the Sustainable Lands Strategy and the Fish, Farms, Flood work. This will include not only ILIO, Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC), and SRTCC membership, but also agencies and stakeholders for a neutral forum to discuss ways to work together. Discussions around creation of this group will continue in the next couple of months and opportunities to get involved will be shared. This may include discussion of a pilot area to try this on, specifically around Penn Cove and/or Maxwellton. We will continue conversations around the priority watersheds/geographic areas of Penn Cove, Greenbank, and Maxwellton. Jenn reviewed a document that aligned salmon priority areas and lessons learned with takeaways from the IC Summit. The group made comments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Lead Entities (LEs) are looking into reach-scale work; maybe we can have a bigger group discussion with them. Interfacing IC DNR, Planning, and PW can be powerful. The more we can identify the opportunities, the better. IC DNR just hired a new Watershed Planner, and part of their role will be restarting IC’s Adaptive Management team, which will involve multiple departments coming together once a month to talk about issues. Jenn reviewed the barriers that were identified for 2021, and compared them to the ones from the 2017 ERP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was discussion about net pens at the OH Marina. They will raise hatchery Coho for 5 months and release them, and are intended to be for education. WDFW approved the permit, and the Tribes signed off on it. This is a limited, non-commercial program, with 30k maximum fish. Fish pens do cause water quality issues, and there is a 303d listing in that area. An article about it can be found here: https://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/news/salmon-project-returns-to-oak-harbor-marina/. In 2017, the identified barriers were largely biophysical and due to a lack of data. Today, the list emphasized the institutions that support recovery and where they could be improved. We have been collecting data, and now it is time to do something with it. 		

Barriers are institutional and around people; MRC's Needs Assessment (NA) and SRTCC's Lessons Learned document underscore this.

- There was discussion about putting an economic value on the work we are doing, but that can inherently tip the balance towards protecting property rather than the environment.
- This is also being discussed at the regional level. It is difficult to make bigger changes, and often long-term issues are superseded by more urgent day-to-day issues. We need to be mindful about sacrificing the long-term picture to talk about what is happening today.
- Other LIOs are finding similar barriers.
- A lot of discussion has been going on about septic still, especially with sea level rise (SLR). We are trying to address current failures and next steps. There are also issues with aging infrastructure. Incentivizing can be great until programmatic funding for it runs out. This can be true for enforcement, as well.
- There is some good news and progress is being made.

Next Meeting
December 14, 2021
1:00-3:00 PM PST
Zoom