



# Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

January 20, 2021

Virtual Meeting

## Introductions/announcements

Member Participants: Barbara Brock (Citizen, Co-chair), Paul Marczin (WDFW), John Lovie (Citizen), Tom Vos (SWS), Todd Zackey (Tulalip, Co-chair), Jon Decker (WCLT), Jessica Côté (Blue Coast Engineering), Tim Hillman (Citizen), Carson Moscoso (SnoCD), Laura Rivas (PSP), Mona Campbell (Business), Gwendolyn Hannam (WICD/MRC), Rick Baker (WWS)

Others: Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (LE Coordinator), Ann Prusha (IC DNR), Lori Clark (IC DNR), Ameer Bahr (RCO), Dr. David Trimbach (OSU)

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## 1. Introductions & Updates

- Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)
- Legislative activities
  - The Governor's budget was released and is now being discussed in the state legislature. Among other things, the governor's proposed budget includes full capacity for Lead Entity funding.
  - There are three ways to engage with the Partnership during the legislative session.
    - **Legislative Updates.** Sent via email and posted to their [website](#) periodically during session, the Update summarizes the priority topics they're following. You can subscribe [here](#).
    - **Legislative Calendar.** Sent via email and posted to their [website](#) every Thursday, the Calendar lists upcoming committee meetings involving legislation and information about issues that affect Puget Sound protection and recovery. Calendars will include public hearings where testimony may be offered.
    - **Legislative Information Call-In.** Jeff Parsons, Legislative Policy Director, will conduct a call-in meeting on Fridays, from 11:30 a.m. to no later than 12:30 p.m., to review the most important legislative issues they are following, answer questions, and discuss partner perspectives. The first call took place January 8. Attendees will receive an agenda each week in advance of the call, usually on Friday mornings. To participate and receive agendas for the weekly calls, please send an email to Don Gourlie at [don.gourlie@psp.wa.gov](mailto:don.gourlie@psp.wa.gov)
  - On January 4, H.R. 4044 authorizing the National Estuary Program through FFY26 was signed. It also increases the authorized amount for base awards to NEP programs and the amount authorized for the competitive grant program. Hooray!
  - The federal omnibus budget passed in December appropriates base grants of at least \$700K to each NEP and increases the competitive grant total amount to \$1.5M this year. It also funds the Puget Sound Geographic Program at \$33.75M (an increase of \$750K this year).
- Action Agenda Update

- The Leadership Council will be asked to approve a draft list of desired outcomes at their February 18 meeting.
- Other boards, groups, and the public have the opportunity to review and weigh in at their regularly scheduled meetings and through the [website](#) now through February 4. From that website a person can access the [formatted version](#) of the list of desired outcomes, [Formatted fact sheet](#) describing the role desired outcomes play in the broader 2022-2026 Action Agenda update, and [a form](#) for the broader public and partners to share their thoughts on the draft desired outcomes.
- Reports and other works to check out:
  - [Chinook salmon population abundance](#) show that the majority of populations have not decreased in abundance since 1999 and some reaches are doing quite well. The target to stop the decline has been met but the target for wild Chinook abundance has not been met.
  - The PSEMP Marine Waters Work Group released the ninth [annual report on marine water conditions in Puget Sound](#). The report combines a wealth of data from numerous, comprehensive environmental monitoring programs. The report is a collective effort of 94 contributors from federal, tribal, state, and local agencies, academia, nonprofits, and private and volunteer groups. Puget Sound waters were warmer and saltier in 2019 which led to variable phytoplankton blooms, lower than average dissolved oxygen, and variable biological responses. The human footprint was evident with greater microplastics and bacteria present.
  - B-iBi - The IS Core Team released the [Final Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity \(B-IBI\) Implementation Strategy](#) in December. There is also a blogpost about it [here](#). The Stormwater Strategic Initiative (SI) is interested in public engagement and diverse viewpoints when they move ahead with engagement (polls, workshops, surveys, etc.).
  - The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office's (GSRO) State of Salmon report was released in January. The report features a new way of showing adult abundance trends developed in conjunction with WDFW and NOAA. See a high level summary video [here](#) and the full report [here](#).
- Workshops and other ways to engage
  - The Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) Nearshore Work Group and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is hosting the Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit to connect restoration scientists and practitioners to synthesize nearshore science and restoration actions in Puget Sound (PS) to create a durable road map that updates restoration conceptual models and identifies key uncertainties for future research and management to address. Beaches will meet March 10-11, Deltas on March 17-18, and Embayments and Deltas will meet March 24-25. Save the date! Send questions to Tish Conway-Cranos ([tish.conway-cranos@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:tish.conway-cranos@dfw.wa.gov)) and Jason Toft ([tofty@u.washington.edu](mailto:tofty@u.washington.edu))
  - The Stormwater SI will host a workshop February 5 and 26 (9am-4pm both days with breaks and lunch) to build strategic capacity to address toxic chemicals in PS. Day one will focus on science and will address PCBs, PAHs, PDBEs, and CECs. February 26 will focus on approaches, barriers and keys to success and a path forward for solutions and interventions. Both days are intended to address issues associated with the Toxics in Aquatic Species Implementation Strategy. Contact Heidi Seigelbaum for more information or to RSVP.

- The Shellfish beds Implementation Strategy will be updated this year. See the announcement [here](#). Contact Audrey Coyne if LIO Coordinators or committee members are interested in participating in the Core group by **January 20**.
- Annelise Del Rio began as the PSP salmon scientist on January 4.

## 2. Administration

- Meeting Notes Approval – December
- Membership Updates
  - To those whose memberships are expiring, Dawn needs an email saying that you are still interested in being a member. Dawn will send this to the Board of Island County Commissioners (BICC) for approval.
  - A notice for all open spots on committees will go out.
  - Mona has appreciated her time with SRTCC, but has a lot of things on her plate and is stepping down. Thank you to Mona!
  - MRC vacant spot: There is a lot of crossover with MRC. Gwendolyn could have this position, and Carson can have the Conservation District (CD) vote.
  - Will need local business representative, especially someone on Camano. Barbara has someone in mind and will reach out to see if they are interested.
  - Jim Sommers is interested in coming back.

## 3. 2021 Grant Round

- Timeline
  - There are two tracks for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant timeline and we are on the early track. Comment letters will be back in April, and then later in April we have an optional phone call. After this, RCO's timeline will not affect our decision making.
  - We can do final ranking on May 19 and be finished with the 2021 grant round for the year. The group requested that they are given at least a week in advance to review rankings before the May meeting.
  - The group approved the timeline. Ann will finalize it.

## 4. ILIO Survey Results

- Dr. David Trimbach, Postdoctoral Research Associate with Oregon State University (OSU), assisted the Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) Technical Committee in creating and implementing a human wellbeing survey. He gave a presentation about the survey and results:
  - It is part of OSU's EPA-funded project focused on human wellbeing integration within LIOs. This survey was co-created with LIO members.
  - The survey used the snowball sampling method, which is good for reaching hard-to-reach communities, addressing politically divisive topics, building trust, and gauging public perceptions.
  - Drinking water, air quality, and sound stewardship ranked highest for natural resource goals. Beaches and marine vegetation, forests and wetlands, and salmon ranked highest for ecosystem recovery components.
  - It is clear that survey respondents understood that all of the survey components are connected to and impact each other. The Island County (IC) community has strong ties to its shoreline.

- There was discussion about engaging with a more diverse selection of people, especially so that people with values other than ours are represented. It is expensive and tricky to engage underserved communities, but using snowball sampling does help. Presence in underrepresented communities is the first step. There was a suggestion to ask parents as they pick up lunches for their kids.
- The survey went out while there were wildfires, and that might have skewed results.
- Shorelines in IC are very important, and the community here has more connection to its shoreline when compared to the rest of the region. Access to and increase of shoreline is something that we can prioritize. That would help projects that score high in those areas, and we can incorporate it into our scoring for ecosystem processes.
- Increasing public access is tricky because it can also degrade ecosystems. However, public access does not need to mean trampling vegetation and can be experienced in different ways.
- There was discussion about using this information to communicate with communities about their bulkheads (people who have beach property with potential to be fish habitat). Shorelines matter to residents, regardless of ownership, and this can be a good place to start a conversation. People can have conflicting outlooks, but the same sense of place. The foundational connection to where you live matters to both groups.
- You needed to be an IC resident to take this survey, but there is more information coming on the broader region.

## 5. Letters of Intent

- Burwell Tidelands Acquisition:
  - This is near English Boom Park on Camano. The landowner has had this property since the 1970's and is motivated to transfer ownership. He would like it to remain free of hunting. The hope is to purchase it and transfer it to WA DNR ownership. Whidbey Camano Land Trust (WCLT) is working on securing matching grant funding.
  - The group decided to invite this project to submit a full proposal.
- Hoypus Point Shoreline Restoration – Construction
  - This is the implementation of restoration for removal of approximately 350 linear feet of shoreline armor and removal of up to 1/3 acre of fill to re-establish nearshore processes at Hoypus Point.
  - The group decided to invite this project to submit a full proposal.
- Polnell Armor Removal - Construction
  - This is the removal of approximately 2,000 tons of armor rock and debris along 1,400 feet of shoreline, removal of fill and decommissioning of approximately 500 linear feet of road prism, and revegetation of the restored shoreline with native dunegrass.
  - This project is on the Navy base. There are issues with unexploded ordinance, but the sponsor felt comfortable enough to submit the project.
  - The group decided to invite this project to submit a full proposal.