# **Shellfish Initiative: Hood Canal/South Sound Shellfish Summit**

**Background**

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council has a small amount of funding to organize a shellfish summit. The idea of the summit is to continue the conversation around collaboratively defining a shellfish initiative that recognizes the many interests, partners, and stakeholders across a broad geographic and multi-jurisdictional area including South Puget Sound and Hood Canal. These preliminary ideas are provided to see feedback from the AHSS Council on potential summit topics and outcomes.

**Potential Summit Topics**

* Shellfish Initiative goal setting
* Strengthen county water quality programs that protect shellfish resources:
  + Sustainable funding for PIC programs
  + Focused water quality issues (e.g., non-point and OSS)
  + Case studies: How other Counties/areas fund shellfish production and protection, water quality improvements, etc.
* Shellfish initiative funding
  + Define need and purpose
  + Stakeholder contributions
  + Outside funding sources
* Research needs/Information gaps
* Identify Stakeholder groups’ needs/interests:
  + Shellfish growers’
  + Hood Canal/South Sound Tribes
  + Hood Canal/South Sound community
* Public-Private Partnership
  + Shellfish industry
  + Local government
  + State/Fed government
* Public outreach & education to support local shellfish culture
  + Education in schools
  + Regional branding

**Potential Outcomes**

* Develop elements of a Shellfish Initiative Action Plan
* Define the components of a shellfish initiative
  + Sustainable shellfish production
  + Water quality to support healthy shellfish populations
  + Recreational/subsistence harvest opportunities
  + Public/K12 outreach
  + Others?
* Identify priority needs for stakeholder group represented
* Identify funding opportunities
* Identify information gaps
* Identify roles for partners and next steps