



Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) Council Meeting
May 5, 2029 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Webinar

Participants

Jesse Barham, City of Olympia
Jeff Barney, Pierce County
Evan Bauder, Mason County
Andy Deffobis, Thurston County
Cindy Callahan, TPCHD
Dan Calvert, PSP

Krystal Kyer, Pierce County Service Water Management
Brad Murphy, Thurston County
Dave Peeler, DERT
Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County
Merita Trohimovich, City of Tacoma
Allan Warren, Pierce Conservation District

Meeting Facilitation

Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic
Mary Byrne, Ross Strategic

Meeting Summary

I. PSP Updates

- PSP staff are telecommuting at least through June.
- PSP is looking at the budget and trying to anticipate future issues with 2021-2023. PSP anticipates there will be a special session related to COVID-19. PSP is looking for 5-10% savings in the current operating budget.
- Strategic Initiative Lead funding will be sharing on May 27th.

II. Outcomes of NEP Funding Process

- The Executive Committee agreed to recommend that the Mud Bay Habitat Protection project be awarded \$100,000 in NEP funding as the priority project recommended by the Alliance for Healthy South Sound. This was the highest scoring NTA in the Technical Team scoring process.
- The Habitat SIAT has requested that each LIO also provide a backup choice NTA. To our knowledge these backup choices have never been needed (i.e., the first choice has always been funded). The Executive Committee agreed to provide the Ecological Responses to Nearshore Restoration in South Puget Sound as a second (back up) choice

III. Vital Signs Revision

- A draft Vital Signs revision report is out for comment. The proposal retains the current portfolio (i.e., if it is currently a vital sign, it remains one) and adds two new vital signs: *Marine Fish and Invertebrates* and *Zooplankton*.
- The Chinook vital salmon sign would be reframed more broadly (add more indicators such as salmon chum, coho, etc.)
- The Estuary sign remains and would be expanded to include large and small estuaries.
- **Action:** please send comments on the draft revision to Elizabeth McManus (emcmanus@rossstrategic.com)

IV. Interim Targets

The following information was presented on options for shoreline armor interim targets:

South Sound Strategy Shoreline Armor Targets

(1) Protect all drift cells with >80% intact feeder bluffs throughout South Sound, 92.5 miles, of which 61.7 miles are in the areas identified as a priority in the South Sound Coastal Catchment Assessment and/or the NPST for Juvenile Salmon.

(1) Protect all intact shoreline throughout South Sound, 278.6 miles, of which 201.7 miles are in the areas identified as a priority in the South Sound Coastal Catchment Assessment and/or the NPST for Juvenile Salmon; and (2) **Restore 73.1** miles of modified shoreline in the areas identified as a priority in the South Sound Coastal Catchment Assessment and/or the NPST for Juvenile Salmon.

Interim Target Analysis

Work with Shore Friendly programs in Mason, Pierce, and Thurston County to examine their shoreline armor removal goals and adopt their targets.

The Expand South Sound Shore Friendly Programs indicated the following:

- The typical residential BH is roughly 100 LF
- 1 mile = 5280 LF
- 1 mile of shoreline = ~ 52 projects with 52 different homeowners

If 8 BH removal projects were able to be done each year, between the 3 CDs and SPSSEG:

- 8 projects = ~ 800 LF
- 5280/800 = 6.6 years to remove 1 mile of armor at the rate of 8 projects annually
- In South Sound alone, 73 miles will take us 481.8 years, at a rate of 6.6 years per mile, with great funding, willing landowners, and our current capacity

The following information was presented on options for shellfish interim targets:

South Sound Strategy Shellfish Targets

(1) Maintain all South Sound shellfish areas that are currently approved for harvest (33,691 acres)

(2) Reopen 703 acres to harvest in Burley Lagoon, Oakland Bay, McLane Cove, Henderson Inlet, Rocky Bay, Vaughn Bay, Filucy Bay, and Nisqually Reach in accordance with shellfish protection district recovery plans.

Interim Target Analysis

Method #1:

- In August of each year, use the Department of Health Commercial Shellfish Map Viewer (<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/oswpviewer/index.html>) to review changes in approved, conditional, prohibited, restricted, and unclassified acres for the South Sound DOH growing areas.
- Use the following cross-walk to calculate changes of the DOH growing areas to AHSS Inlet/Island Group Classifications. Note: there are some areas where the growing areas may not completely fit within one Inlet/Island Group. Groups were cross-walked to the best our ability.

Inlet/Island Group (AHSS Classification)	Growing Area (DOH Classification)
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Budd Inlet	Budd Inlet
Carr Inlet	Burley Lagoon
	Henderson Bay
Case Inlet	North Bay
	Reach Island
	Rocky Bay
	Vaughn Bay
Eld Inlet	Eld Inlet
Hammersley Inlet / Oakland Bay	Hammersley Inlet
	Oakland Bay
Harstine Island Group	Dana Passage
	Drayton Passage
	Harstine East
	Peale Passage
	Pickering Passage
	West Key Peninsula
	Stretch Island
Henderson Inlet	Henderson Inlet
McNeil Island Group	Filucy Bay
	Fox Island
	Ketron Island
	Mc Neil Island S E
	Oro Bay
	Penrose Point
	Wollochet Bay
	Wyckoff Shoal
	Anderson Island
	Nisqually Reach
Totten & Little Skookum Inlets	Skookum Inlet
	Totten Inlet

Information provided by DOH indicates that upgrades/downgrades for 2019 are as follows:

- **Approved:** 33,303 acres
- **Conditional:** 1,124 acres
- **Prohibited:** 8,921 acres
- **Restricted:** 154 acres
- **Unclassified:** 5,561 acres

The total number of acres provided by the DOH analysis is approximately 49,060 while the total number of acres provided in the AHSS metadata for the South Sound Strategy in 2016 is approximately 42,850 acres. This discrepancy may be due to the following:

- Unclassified areas being calculated differently in the AHSS South Sound Strategy
- DOH may have added growing areas
- Different calculation methods to determine total area.

Given these differences and the fact that DOH data is regularly updated, we propose to use the Department of Health Commercial Shellfish Map Viewer data to determine interim targets.

DOH provided the following information on South Sound Growing Area classification in 2016 and South Sound Growing Area classification in 2019

Acreage Difference Between 2016 and 2019 Data Provided by DOH				
Approved	Conditional	Prohibited	Restricted	Unclassified
790.96	-218.79	-263.05	57.92	-407.09

Shellfish Interim Target Proposal #1: Maintain all South Sound shellfish areas that are currently approved for harvest year to year.

Rationale: This is consistent with the goal outlined in the South Sound strategy. This number will be calculated using the DOH Department of Health Commercial Shellfish Map Viewer data.

- DOH data 2019 indicates that 33,303 acres were classified as approved in 2019. This is about 300 acres short of the South Sound Shellfish target of maintaining 33,691 acres.

Method #2:

The South Sound Strategy calls for reopening 703 acres to harvest in Burley Lagoon, Oakland Bay, McLane Cove,¹ Henderson Inlet, Rocky Bay, Vaughn Bay, Filucy Bay, and Nisqually Reach in accordance with shellfish protection district recovery plans. The Department of Health Commercial Shellfish Map Viewer data would be used to determine yearly changes.

Shellfish Interim Target Proposal #2: Reopen a set number of acres to harvest each year in Burley Lagoon, Oakland Bay, North Bay, Henderson Inlet, Rocky Bay, Vaughn Bay, Filucy Bay, and Nisqually Reach

- DOH data for 2016 and 2019 indicates that an additional 511.65 acres were approved between 2016 and 2019 in these areas. This is approximately 127.91 acres approved per year between 2016 and 2019. An interim target could be determined based on approximately 128 acres approved per year in these areas.

¹ We have a new Shellfish Protection District that was established for North Bay. It's REALLY large. McLane Cove falls within it.

	Acreage Difference Between 2016 and 2019 Data Provided by DOH				
Growing Area (DOH Classification)	Approved	Conditional	Prohibited	Restricted	Unclassified
Burley Lagoon	-81.06	61.40		19.66	0.00
Rocky Bay	-29.86	17.58	0.00	12.28	
Vaughn Bay	13.19	0.00	0.00		
Oakland Bay	432.50	-540.41	89.35		
Pickering Passage (McLane Cove is part of this)	94.35	-31.23	-21.74		
Henderson Inlet	-25.99		-79.34	25.99	
Filucy Bay		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Nisqually Reach	108.52		-108.52		
Total	511.65	-492.67	-120.24	57.92	0.00

	Acreage Classification in 2019	
Growing Area (DOH Classification)	Acreage table for the growing areas for the South Sound Counties 2019 Prohibited	Acreage table for the growing areas for the South Sound Counties 2019 Restricted
Burley Lagoon	0	93.4
Rocky Bay	8.4	12.3
Vaughn Bay	21.6	0
Oakland Bay	751.7	0
Pickering Passage (McLane Cove is part of this)	243.5	0
Henderson Inlet	132.8	26
Filucy Bay	28.7	8.4
Nisqually Reach	1701	0
Total	2,887.7	140.1

V. Partner Updates and Round Robin

- Jeff: There are two derelict boats in Pierce County. Pierce County has reported the boats to DNR and are working to get the boats removed. One boat is scraping against shellfish beds.

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- Evan: Provided a brief update on the WRIA 14 freshwater strategy update. The project is wrapping up Phase 1 existing conditions report and is kicking off to phase 2 and meaningful reaches in WRIA streams. The group has been having virtual meetings to share everything known about streams in a spreadsheet. Due to this work and other GIS analysis, the group is fairly confident they can wrap up phase 2 without data gaps.
 - Dave: Was on zoom meeting for economic development for Thurston County; there are horrific numbers for jobs. Counties are trying to translate these numbers into anticipated loss for counties. There may be an anticipate second wave of unemployment to local governments. Many of our programs and are dependent on resources at a local level.
 - Merita – City of Tacoma’s NTA 827 is now being funded now. This NTA involves different infiltration testing method. This may be easier to do and something people could do throughout year rather than during the infiltration testing window in ecology manual.
 - Jesse: Science symposium will be in April/May in 2021. In terms of Olympia’s budget, the city may be in a good place for recovery; Olympia has a \$8 million budget reserve and may use a portion of that to balance the budget (in addition to budget cuts).
 - Dan: PSP is in the process of developing statement of work on WRIA 13 with ESA. Will get that signed sometime in next month or so. Work will be completed by June 2021.

VI. Next Steps

The council will meet again July 14, from 2-4 pm. If you have suggestions for agenda topics, please email Elizabeth, emcmanus@rossstrategic.com. Potential agenda items are: 1) Interim targets update 2) planning for 2020-21 LIO work 3) update on Mud Bay NTA funding and 4) Action Agenda planning