



**Strait
Ecosystem
Recovery
Network LIO**

Alliance for a Healthy
South Sound
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Building 1
Olympia, WA 98502

Executive Office
401 5th Avenue
Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Hood Canal Coordinating
Council
17791 Fjord Drive NE
Suite 122
Poulsbo, WA 98370-8481

Snohomish County
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

Strait Ecosystem
Recovery Network LIO
Post Office Box 3622
Sequim, WA, 98382

November 26, 2014

Angela Bonifaci, Puget Sound Team Lead
EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
Bonifaci.angela@epa.gov

Re: Comments on EPA's Straw Funding Models for EPA Puget Sound Geographic Program
Appropriation in FY16 and Beyond

Dear Ms. Bonifaci:

Thank you for recently convening Puget Sound tribal and local jurisdictions, as represented through Local Integrating Organizations, to discuss potential changes to the way that National Estuary Program funding is distributed in the Puget Sound Basin. At the meeting on September 26, 2014 in Edmonds you and your team were candid and clear about EPA's needs and interests for any funding approach and we believe the conversation advanced this important issue significantly.

In response to the opportunity to comment on the potential funding models presented at the September 26th meeting, this letter conveys an alternative recommended method for the distribution of National Estuary Program funding. This alternative model is endorsed by five local integrating organizations and by Puget Sound tribal governments via the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission's Board of Commissioners. It is our understanding that the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will be submitting a separate letter to EPA supporting the alternative model.

Our proposal suggests that EPA develop and implement a National Estuary Program funding approach for Puget Sound similar to the one used for Salmon Recovery Funding in watersheds. That process is well understood, effective, and has broad based support. At the center of this alternative model is a commitment to allocate a portion of available funds to implementation of high priority locally identified actions that are consistent with regional recovery strategies as demonstrated by inclusion in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (the Puget Sound Action Agenda).

The attached document presents a flow chart of the NWIFC/LIO model, for comparison to those outlined by EPA on September 26th.

We thank you for your consideration of our ideas and we look forward to working with you to deliver NEP funding to the highest priority actions and to protect and restore this special place that we all call home. We know there are many details to work out, and we would welcome the chance to meet with you to more fully describe our model and talk about how it can best meet your and our interests.

Respectfully,



Pat McCarthy
Chair, Alliance for a Healthy South Sound
Pierce County Executive



Fred Jarrett
Chair, South Central Action Area Caucus Group
King County Deputy Executive



Scott Brewer
Executive Director, Hood Canal
Coordinating Council



Dave Somers
Chair, Snohomish-Stillaguamish
LIO Executive Committee



Steve Tharinger
Representative, 24th District
Strait ERN LIO Co-Chair

Attachment

cc: Sheida Sahandy, Puget Sound Partnership

Joint Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Local Integrating Organization
Proposal for an Alternative Approach to Allocation of NEP Funding in 2016 and Beyond —November, 2014

