



# Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties; Port Gamble S'Klallam & Skokomish Tribes

## Hood Canal Regional PIC Program Guidance Group Meeting Summary

Feb 18, 2021; 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Via Zoom

### Meeting Objectives

- Share updates on PIC activities
- Complete Phase 4 Workplan: Sustainable Funding Strategy ([Draft Ph. 4 Workplan linked here](#))

### Attendees

Barbara Adkins, Mason Conservation District  
Leslie Banigan, Kitsap Public Health District  
Anne Baxter, Washington State Dept. of Ecology  
Seth Book, Skokomish Indian Tribe  
Mike Dawson, Jefferson Co. Public Health  
Jean Frost, Washington State Dept. of Health  
Glenn Gately, Jefferson Conservation District  
Haley Harguth, Hood Canal Coordinating Council  
Andy Hokit, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

Janine Reed, Clallam Co. Environmental Health  
Alena Reynolds, Washington State Dept. of Ecology  
Julian Sammons, Skokomish Indian Tribe  
Jacquelyn Stenman, Jefferson Co. Public Health  
Ian Tracy, Mason Co. Public Health  
Heather Watts, Clallam Co. Environmental Health  
Nate White, Hood Canal Coordinating Council

### Phase 4 Grant Status

- Sub-contracts in process

### Hoodsport Reclassification

- The 66 acres of the Hoodsport Shellfish Growing Area (a portion of Hood Canal-6 growing area are now classified as approved for harvest as of Jan. 31, 2021.
- HCCC staff is coordinating with shellfish co-managers and partners regarding public outreach efforts and concerns around the implications of opening this area after a long closure period. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 19, 12:30-2:00 PM to discuss more
- Skokomish requested the reclassification, which triggered the approval
- The HCRPIC group helped to
  - Monitor
  - Hotspot investigations and corrections
  - Shoreline surveys
  - Documentation/reporting
  - Skokomish put \$15,000 HCRPIC allocation toward Mason Co. PIC corrections
  - Put data into Mason Co. water quality database
  - Overcame challenges of difficult corrections
- Took five years to reclassify
- Hoodsport water quality is now better than Annas Bay
- Public access in Hoodsport area, plus private harvest = tourism, human wellbeing benefits
- Future: maintain water quality in Hoodsport
- Hoodsport's reclassification can be used a justification for Mason Co.'s sustainable funding effort: transitioning from a succession of phases of work (e.g. PIC Phase 1, PIC Phase 2, etc.) to a dedicated program funded in perpetuity can assist more reclassifications in the future

- Documentation/reporting helps with justifying reclassification! There is a desire to create a clearinghouse of Hoodspout reclassification docs, \$ spent, etc.
- Highlight reclassification in a story map to celebrate success
- This is a success story noticed nationally (success with EPA, tribes, state, HCCC)
- Make sure all partners get credit
- EPA NEP grant officer (Kathryn Gunkel?) is aware of this, wants to publicize
- Important for partners to communicate how we're communicating about the reclassification
- Huge props to Skokomish and Mason Co. for their work!

## HCPRPIC Data Reporting Procedures

Progress Reports - ( <a href="#">template linked here</a> )	Due monthly, by the 15th of the following month (required for reimbursement)
Data Reports ( <a href="#">template linked here</a> )	Due one week prior to Guidance Group meetings Latest deadline: Feb. 11, 2021
Water quality data for WQX data entry	Due annually, by Dec 31

- May 1, 2020 start date for data collection
- Data collection important to showing our success and effectiveness

## Partner Updates

- Quick re-cap of activities since our last meeting, including:
  - o Overview of shellfish upgrades/downgrades, or changes in progress
  - o Ongoing work in Priority Areas
  - o Emerging issues
  - o Coordination/training needs
  - o Share success stories
  - o Photos (no property identifiers)

### Mason Co.

- COVID restrictions are making it difficult to do home visits
- Lost other water quality staff person; just Ian now: working multiple projects, limited capacity
- 3500 E ST RTE 106
  - o Investigative sampling
  - o Residents difficult to convince to take actions. Progress being made (rebate incentives helping).
  - o 3 streams on property, 2 streams go to a ditch that Skokomish samples, other stream flows toward State Rte. 106, multiple sources (goat, dog, ducks, chickens), one stream piped through leaky concrete culvert (parts exposed/broken), changed hydrology between meetings: clogging issues in culverts with recent storms, high hit from pond flow (ducks, septic tank near), recommended for the resident to get O&M on septic, recent sampling from pond outflow was low
- Waterfront property
  - o Direct discharge, house over water at high tide (on stilts), cleanout cap open
  - o Rebate used (pumped, no O&M due to financial hardship). Direct discharge fixed.
  - o There is another pump tank on property but it was not found, gravity draining to septic tank, 250 gal pump tank after septic, pumping to drainfield (driveway), previously failed dye test
- Both of these properties along Rte 106 in Annas Bay (between Hunter Farms and Union)

## Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

- Four successful sampling events, successfully sampled all 12 sites
- Volunteer trainings Dec. 9, 2020, Feb. 8, 2021. Great trained, dedicated volunteer team (thanks Leslie for technical support!), small volunteer groups due to COVID restrictions, thanks to Skokomish Tribe for help
- Tahuya sampling site: why so far upstream?
  - Moved due to tidal influence and access
  - Site still below vast majority of development (though some parcels below site)
- Future, post COVID-19: Olympic College students interested in volunteering

## Jefferson Co.

- In the middle of moving their office!
- Grant through Ecology ends in August, asked for extension through March
- Foundational Monitoring and PIC project
  - QAPP approved, 14 streams, 87 miles of prioritized shoreline, 2 enforcement cases above Duckabush hotspot
  - Affording new septic systems challenging right now (financially), not many sources for new septic incentives
- Northern Hood Canal priority area (Port Ludlow to Coyle)
  - Stream: Paradise Bay 42
    - ¼ mi north of boat ramp, small stream (<5 gal/min)
    - Otters causing hits?
    - COVID restrictions making home visits tough, started in November 2020, 17 properties above hotspot: half responded, 5 sanitary surveys in area, surveys yielded no major issues, revisit next month for more samples, half of properties don't have an O&M inspection
- Oak Bay/Mats Mats
  - Little Goose Creek (priority hotspot)
    - Failed septic was replaced, but high bacteria in dry season, low bacteria in wet season, waterfowl in ponds above stream? Monitoring will continue
  - Mats Mats 121
    - High bacteria from curtain drain between two properties, decommissioned septic from an ADU, low bacteria levels, monitoring will continue
    - Looking for time extension to end of year
    - Integrated into Foundational Monitoring and PIC project
- Pierce Creek
  - Low hits in dry season, the main road is parallel to stream, house with no septic system near creek
- Working on compliance code
- Policy for emergency use of holding tanks to be discussed by Jefferson Board of Health
- Have all the Duckabush water quality concerns been ID'd? It is an important shellfish area
  - Duckabush monitoring continues
  - All outhouses have been decommissioned in the floodplain
  - Lull in investigating in past year due to COVID
  - All properties in areas analyzed for O&M, violations
  - Another round of surveys along Pierce Ck pending, no failures waiting for correction, one house with a septic decommissioned changed hands, working with owner to determine plans
  - State marine water quality conditions are classified as "approved"
  - Potential success story in the making!

## **Kitsap Co.**

- COVID challenges: excess septic use (people staying home more), contact restrictions, pivot to contactless surveys, COVID work taking staff capacity
- Have had success using vouchers to drive surveys in needed area (via mailings)
  - Targeted voucher letters in Hood Canal; effective in summertime
- 44 surveys in Hood Canal, 3 failures, one repaired with an alternative system, one with gravity, one backing up system in progress
- 3 hotspots in Hood Canal
  - One in Edgewater (Jump Off Joe Ck), heavy otter presence
  - One at Sunset Rd (between Kinman Ck and bridge), wetlands, otters
  - One at Hudson, ponds, bird flyway, otters
- 3 active complaints
  - Holly (shoreline): ppl living in summertime trailer
  - Big Beef Ck (upstream): trailer camp, 4 complaints in 6 years, cleaning up
  - Little Anderson Ck agriculture complaint (horse boarding facility), farm plan with KCD, rain garden installed, seasonal drainage (Oct-May)
- Once tides improve, back to shoreline hotspots

## **Jefferson Conservation District (JCD)**

- Landfill monitoring lately
- Not much PIC-related monitoring
- Deal with EPA Manchester Lab (contact Stephanie Bailey) for Microbial Source Tracking (MST) monitoring in Chimacum Ck watershed
  - Four wet months beg. Nov 2021; four dry months, beg. June 2022)
  - Looking for cattle and human biomarkers
  - past MST monitoring in an artesian well in Discovery Bay: avian biomarkers found in 12 out of 12 months, highest hits in Discovery Bay at DOH monitoring site
- New JCD manager to be announced soon
- Also looking for a planner for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) projects
- Jefferson Co. Public Health has received agricultural (manure) complaints lately; will forward to JCD

## **Mason Conservation District (MCD)**

- Ecology grant: Shelton Green Infrastructure Grant (NPDES permit city), installed 6 rain gardens, free tree giveaways (not much success), extended grant through end of year: 6-9 more rain gardens, more tree events, depaving project (Mason Co. Behavioral Health Center)
- John retiring at the end of month; Evan Bauder will be new MCD Manager, Barbara or Evan will continue attending HCRPIC meetings
- Is there funding for people to manage livestock waste in the Annas Bay area available? WA Conservation Commission (NEP grant) funds forthcoming for shellfish growing areas in Mason Co. for technical assistance and education and outreach

## **Skokomish Indian Tribe**

- High pollution events from summer/fall are now being diluted from recent floods, floods and pollution may increase over winter/spring
- Collecting samples still; no additional properties apart from Mason Co's report out
- Helping Mason Co Public Health with PIC work occasionally through Skokomish River TMDL EPA work
- Annas Bay new priority now that Hoodspout is reclassified as approved

- EPA 319 program = education and outreach changed since COVID, interested in using programs for non-tribal properties near Skokomish River
- Coccolithophore monitoring wrapping up
- Skokomish River flood flow monitoring occurring now: how much water comes down watershed during flood events? Emergency managers, shellfish folks can use this info
- Weather monitoring in Hood Canal: installing high quality weather stations, right now use data from airports and weathernet, helpful for climate, coccolithophore monitoring

## Sustainable Funding Strategy – Outreach Campaign

- Mason Co. commissioners are entertaining a potential ~\$5 parcel fee for parcels draining to Hood Canal (majority of county) to raise sustainable funding for PIC work
  - o Would generate ~\$200,000 in annual funding
  - o Would cover all land uses
  - o Strong support from all three Mason Co. commissioners
  - o PIC work that would be funded
    - Ambient monitoring program for ~30 sites
    - Shoreline survey/sampling program
      - Now: shorelines sampled every 10 years
      - Post-funding: every 5 years
    - Increased corrective O&M work
    - Annual water quality report
    - Monthly data sharing with partners
    - Hire two FT permanent water quality staff (plus filling an existing vacancy); positions will be in addition to existing staff (4 positions total)
  - o Funding would open up possibility of matching funding from Ecology
  - o The funding proposal is going in front of county commission next week, then a public hearing after that
  - o Goal: fee in place by end of March 2021 (end of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter)
  - o To garner commissioner support: have them attend Shellfish Protection District and other water quality meetings to get up to speed on water quality funding challenges: the assumption is that all water quality work is being done and properly funded, which is not often the case.
- How can the HCRPIC Program help local jurisdictions establish and maintain sustainable funding for water quality (PIC) programs?
  - o Mason: No action needed right now from Guidance Group; if they start getting push back, more assistance may be needed at that point
  - o Jefferson: no plan to pursue additional local funding, grant funding is more uncertain, have the Guidance Group identify other sources?
  - o Kitsap: telling success stories is better than charts, graphs
- Action items
  - o Focus on story telling that can be used in sustainable funding discussions
    - Hoodsport reclassification
    - Voucher success stories: little problems preventing big problems
    - Story maps of HCRPIC partners success stories
    - Aquaculture success stories?
    - Hire a filmmaker to tell Hoodsport success story? (Leaping Frog Films, Marrowstone Is.)
  - o Explore social marketing for areas looking for sustainable water quality fees: analyze motivators and barriers
  - o Grant funds are uncertain: investigate alternatives, countywide grants are easier to maintain and manage than individual grants

- Dedicate standing time at Guidance Group meeting to discuss this issue

## Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI) – Funded Projects

- \$55,000 is available for immediate implementation of projects advancing the HCSI. HCCC staff reviewed the two projects awarded these funds by the HCSI Workgroup and HCCC Board of Directors.
  - “Advancing a custom-fit strategy for restoration of Olympia oysters in Hood Canal”
    - Proposal from the Puget Sound Restoration Fund
    - Develop comprehensive approach to Olympia oyster restoration in Hood Canal
    - Implement the comprehensive approach by collecting missing data and preparing for restoration
    - Develop education and outreach opportunities to engage people in native oyster restoration
    - \$47,638 award
  - “Mason County 2021 PIC Support”
    - Proposal from Mason Co. Public Health
    - Replacement of broken and damaged sampling equipment due to limited funding in the water quality program
      - 2x refractometers
      - 1x multi-parameter water quality meter (temp., PH, salinity, etc.)
      - 2x telescoping sampling wands
      - 1x weighted bottle sampler
    - \$7,362 award
  - Scopes of work are being negotiated and finalized for these projects. It is hoped that project implementation can begin later this month or early March 2021.

## Wrap-up & Next Steps

- Schedule eDNA sub-group meeting
  - Anne, Glenn, Mike, Seth, Leslie
- [Doodle](#) for next GG meeting: please complete by COB Mar. 1, 2021