



Hood Canal Coordinating Council

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

Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI) Workgroup Meeting #2

Date: January 30, 2020; 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Location: Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) office, 17791 Fjord Drive NE, Suite 124, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Link to [agenda](#)

Link to [presentation](#)

Attendees by phone:

- Kevin Shetty, Mason County Commissioner, HCCC Board
- Kate Dean, Jefferson County Commissioner, HCCC Board Chair
- Laura Butler, WA State Dept. of Agriculture
- Kelly Biedenweg, Oregon State University

Attendees in person:

- Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish Farms
- Phil Best, Hood Canal Environmental Council
- Kelly Toy, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Jodie Toft, Puget Sound Restoration Fund
- Jonathan Wolf, Skokomish Tribe
- Blair Paul, Skokomish Tribe
- Bobbie Hudson, Puget Sound Institute
- Sandy Zeiner, NW Indian Fisheries Commission
- Dan Tonnes, NOAA
- Jackie Gardner, Shoreline Landowner
- Camille Speck, WDFW
- Larry Phillips, WDFW
- Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County
- Haley Harguth, HCCC
- Nate White, HCCC
- Heidi Huber, HCCC

Meeting objectives

- Finalize Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI) Opportunity Statement, Goal Statement, Objectives
- Understand the DASEES structured decision making tool
- Develop sub-objectives and performance measures
- Schedule next meeting

Welcome and Introductions

For new participants, what does shellfish mean to you?

- WDFW- Recreation, commercial importance. Hope to learn about more opportunities for WDFW marketing staff

- PSI- shellfish great tool for outreach to talk about water quality, also cultural and economic importance. I am participating in this group because I want coordination with other efforts, learn more about how local communities can share information
- NOAA- I consume shellfish, my family loves harvesting mussels. Eager to get to know stakeholders within shellfish industry. NOAA has funding sources that can aid in initiatives like this.
- WDFW - Fascinated with clams. I manage recreational fisheries with an eye toward tribal treaty rights. Hope to be of service to the goals of this group and find ways WDFW can help.
- NWIFC- want to get to know everyone and see how I can share this info with the tribes
- Skokomish tribe- want to understand the purpose of this group. Shellfish are of huge importance to Skokomish tribe. Interested in population trends, harvest trends. Shellfish supports my livelihood and that of tribal harvesters.
- Pierce County – I am the South Sound Shellfish Recovery Project Coordinator through Alliance for Healthy South Sound. We are trying to coordinate a group similar to what is happening in Hood Canal but organized around south sound (conservation districts, public health, etc) working together. Would like to get ideas from Hood Canal for building our group. Shellfish are an important indicator for the health of Puget Sound.

HCCC staff provided an overview of the purpose of the HCSI Workgroup

- We are here as a workgroup to develop content for an action plan. This summer HCCC hopes to hold a shellfish summit to debut the draft action plan to a broader audience (stakeholders, partners) and gather feedback. The HCCC Board (consisting of HCCC member governments: Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason counties and the Port Gamble S'Klallam and Skokomish Tribes) will then approve the action plan. Plan implementation will likely begin in late 2020 and early 2021 using support HCCC has secured from an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Estuary Program grant.

Question: What shellfish are we including in this discussion?

- HCCC response: right now this group has shellfish broadly defined, but we will likely start to focus in once we start developing strategies.

Review/Finalize Opportunity Statement, Goal, Objectives

The Workgroup continued the work that was initiated during HCSI Workgroup Meeting #1 to finalize the Opportunity Statement, Goal, and Objectives.

Revised Opportunity Statement:

- *Hood Canal is characterized by its iconic shellfish, which are ecologically, culturally, and economically critical to local communities. The opportunity to promote resilience of Hood Canal shellfish to environmental and human pressures is uniquely served by a collaborative, diverse network of stakeholders invested in Hood Canal's long-term health and identity.*

Comments

- Opportunity Statement should address why we are all here and what we are hoping to accomplish.
- Would be good to incorporate vitality in some way
- Who is our audience?
 - It is broad at this point: trying to be inclusive of all potential stakeholders with an interest in Hood Canal shellfish

Revised Goal:

- *Support and expand Hood Canal's thriving shellfish resources and identity with coordinated and multi-beneficial strategies and actions that build resilience, pursue ecosystem*

protection and restoration, honor tribal treaty rights, and support careful stewardship of commercial shellfish activities and recreational harvest now and into the future.

Comments

- Group discussed then agreed on the language

Revised Objectives:

- *Support sustainable shellfish aquaculture practices that promote cultivation methods that minimize harmful environmental impacts & support shellfish farms*
- *Expand harvest opportunities for the local community, visitors, and treaty tribes through coordinated efforts with state and tribal shellfish managers and regulatory agencies*
- *Restore native Hood Canal shellfish populations by working with stakeholders to define, prioritize, and implement restoration actions*
- *Promote efforts to improve water quality and address pollution sources through support of local water quality programs*
- *Support shellfish habitat protection and restoration efforts*
- *Improve the resilience of Hood Canal shellfish to the impacts of climate change, population growth, and other long-term pressures*
- *Promote cultural appreciation of Hood Canal shellfish through education & outreach*

Comments

- Important to note that this is not a prioritized list
- Huge harvest occurs on non-native species, manila clams and pacific oysters. Make sure there is a balance between restoring native and non-native shellfish.
- Would be good to simplify the objectives
 - The list will get focused/simplified when we develop sub-objectives
- What about invasive species?
 - Invasive species could be incorporated into a sub-objective as part of the “Improve the resilience of Hood Canal shellfish...” objective (i.e. invasive species can be considered a long term pressure).
- Group agreed to move forward with objectives as written, with the understanding that the objectives can be modified during the sub-objective exercise

HCCC staff will make edits to the Opportunity Statement, Goal, and Objectives based on this feedback and present finalized versions at the next Workgroup meeting.

DASEES Structured Decision Making Tool Overview

- Presentation by Kelly Biedenweg, Oregon State University Assistant Professor in Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife. Kelly has experience working with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) on human wellbeing indicators/vital signs
- [Link to PPT Presentation: Decision Analysis for a Sustainable Environment Economy Society \(DASEES\)](#)
- DASEES tool can be used to better integrate human health and ecosystem services in watershed planning. The tool was created by EPA national offices
- Kelly noticed that some of the HCSI working group’s objectives have doing something “through this and this” type statements. DASEES will recommend your end objective be different than your means objectives. Those means objectives/through statements will become your strategies. Just something to keep in mind.

- HCCC staff- we are excited to use this tool to help with structure and transparency. The HCSI Workgroup does not need to engage on this as HCCC will be working on this behind the scenes. If you want to learn more we can engage you. There is a DASEES workshop in February – if someone here wants to join please let us know. This tool has been used in other places, there are resources available if you are curious.
- Comment- might be helpful for the HCSI team to periodically review progress from the DASEES process with the Workgroup
 - HCCC staff will do this going forward
- Question: Is this group trying to cross pollinate with other kinds of planning process? HCCC Staff: Yes, there is a lot of opportunity and overlap with other efforts that we can benefit from, as appropriate. But we are not starting with other plans, we want to generate our own content. For example, we can look to indicators already developed by PSP or HCCC's Hood Canal indicators (IWP). We can look to other plans for actions etc. Many people in this room here today have worked on development of those plans so inherently there will be cross pollination.
- Question for Kelly: Was DASEES used for work with the Puget Sound Partnership? Response: PSP is starting to use DASEES now because it wasn't available until just this last year.

Develop sub-objectives

What makes a good objective?

- What is of ultimate importance to achieve our HCSI goal; what are the end values?
- Clearly describe **the value** and **the intent or direction for that value**.
- Don't include the means to achieve the end value – those will be sub-objectives.

What makes a good sub-objective?

- How do we achieve the end values stated in the objective?
- Each sub-objective should be linked to a distinct performance measure. If performance measures are duplicated, the corresponding sub-objectives should be re-visited to assess if they are over-lapping, or have similar intents/outcomes.

Participants broke out into four subgroups to draft sub-objectives for the objectives listed below. Some groups also began listing performance measures and units for their sub-objectives. Each subgroup reported back to the entire group and HCCC staff captured proposed sub-objectives in a separate document that is [linked here](#). HCCC staff will review the Workgroup's content and edit it as necessary so it fits the DASEES format. These edits will be shared with the group at the next meeting. The notes below capture some comments made during the report out discussion.

Objectives:

Restore native Hood Canal shellfish populations by working with stakeholders to define, prioritize, and implement restoration actions

Comments on sub-objectives:

- Procurement of seed would be necessary, what hatcheries would make seed and provide it?
- What about other native species, cockles, etc. (not just Olympia oysters)?
- Need a high-level analysis of all (data on numbers, location, etc.) then we can determine what the priority species are.
- Need a specific sub-objective for growing of seed (hatchery aspect).
 - Certain parts of Hood Canal just require more substrate, don't need seed
- Include tideland owners in working group sub objective.
- Include species names? Or will that come out further in planning process?
- WDFW priorities are very specific to Olympia Oysters.

Support shellfish habitat protection and restoration efforts

Comments on sub-objectives:

- Shellfish protection- protecting conditions under which shellfish can grow
- What are the impediments? Funding, permitting, regulations
- Shellfish enhancement can be focused on water quality and not habitat
- Outreach and education so people understand what good habitat looks like, similar to outreach and education that happens for salmon that focuses on habitat

Improve the resilience of Hood Canal shellfish to the impacts of climate change, population growth, and other long-term pressures

Comments on sub-objectives:

- Harvest issues
- Prepare as climate change happens (i.e. modeling of sea level changes)
- Need more classifying of the pressures/ vulnerability assessment
 - PSI is working with Oregon State University on a vulnerability assessment for WA, Oregon, CA (covers Hood Canal): it could be helpful for this effort
- Minimize harvest impacts. With population growth comes more harvesting. Need improved management processes and seeding. Need better management models. Align regulations with level of impact
- Need to look at management practices and determine how population growth will impact shellfish and make sure we are managing responsibly (habitat loss impacts, increased harvest)
- Minimize aquaculture impacts
- UW Ocean Acidification Center is a great resource. We should engage with their research to better understand impacts on Hood Canal shellfish

Promote efforts to improve water quality and address pollution sources through support of local water quality programs

Comments on sub-objectives:

- Outreach to landowners about pollutants in their yard
- Create non-harvest shellfish beds for water quality

Expand harvest opportunities for the local community, visitors, and treaty tribes through coordinated efforts with state and tribal shellfish managers and regulatory agencies

Comments on sub-objectives:

- Need to expand upland access to public tidelands
 - Dosewallips example was discussed. Closed this year due to high harvest activity last year. Last year it was not unusual to count 400 people on the beach in one day.
- How do we avoid having a second year closure due to first year harvest? Weather has huge impact. Weekend low tides change every year. There is an eye to regional planning. People want the same experience year after year. When seasons get tightened people feel a sense of urgency to go ASAP. One strategy is to highlight other opportunities so people know about other areas. Expanding upland access is critical. If you have a boat you have greater access, with no boat you are limited.
- What metric does WDFW use to track recreational access? This is one of the PSP vital signs.
 - WDFW's end goal is to have more sites, not more people at each site. Access can be an issue.
- Can we do real time management? Overcrowding is an issue

- WDFW response - Yes through emergency regulation. Real time management would be helpful. Web-based resources are available to the public to show what is open and when.
- Seems there is a built in tension between HCCC's In Lieu Fee Mitigation Program and public access on beaches. Properties purchased through the ILF program do not allow public access.
 - HCCC staff response: HCCC ILF Program doesn't have wiggle room on this. Because the properties are purchased with mitigation funds, there are strict rules about public access to prevent degradation of ecological function.
- Should be a priority to enhance resources at sites with infrastructure (toilets, access, etc). If you open up access to more remote sites but don't have the infrastructure it can be problematic

Support sustainable shellfish aquaculture practices that promote cultivation methods that minimize harmful environmental impacts and support shellfish farms

Comments on sub-objectives:

- Written best management practices
- Issue of escaped gear is a big one

The group didn't finish discussing this one, will pick conversation back up at next meeting

Promote cultural appreciation of Hood Canal shellfish through education and outreach

Comments on sub-objectives:

- HCCC should be more engaged in Shoreline Master Program planning/development
- Outreach success story example: Dyes Inlet shoreline home owners invited by tribes to event on shellfish
- Work with WA State Parks to enhance shellfish education in parks
- Private sector branding – Hama Hama Oysterama
- Educate shoreline tideland homeowners about tribal treaty rights
- PSI has worked on a shellfish survey (middle school), addresses tribal rights
- WDFW- tribal co management for fishing is covered but isn't front and center on our website. We could do a better job of this.
- Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association recently had a meeting with sea grant on needs for communication. Tribal rights, private property information. There is a OAinWA.org website that focuses on ocean acidification. We need a shellfishinWA.org type website that focuses on shellfish.
- Connecting with WA Sea Grant would be good, Paul Dion, Maryanne Wagner.
- Focusing on tribal culture is good but also need to include/engage other Hood Canal residents.
- Outreach focused on messaging around shellfish being a good example of stewardship – role of citizen scientists, homeowners.
- Economic component of jobs, ex: PSI education programs in Mason County with students.
- Shellfish are directly impacted by their surrounding habitat (unlike fish that move)
- Tribal economic benefit, tourism, state shellfish initiative goals is to improve timeliness and accuracy of production and harvest data.
- Laura Butler is actively talking to DOH and WDFW about production and harvest data
- What are the economic benefits of shellfish?
- Trina Wellman (Northern Economics) has done some work on economic benefits. Her work is more industry focused not recreational.
- Andrea Thorpe with WA State Parks would be good to engage with this group

- There used to be a shellfish club at Quilcene High School. At one time they set oyster seed and sold it and funded a trip to visit shellfish operations in France.
- What about targeting the people that eat shellfish – focus on education on how to cook, eat, and enjoy!
- How much do we want to encourage more harvest? There needs to be a balance

Develop performance measures

The subgroups didn't have time to develop and discuss performance measures. HCCC staff will try to bring draft performance measurements to the next meeting for discussion.

Comment: Has HCCC considered a Washington Sea Grant Hershman fellow? HCCC could qualify. This may allow HCCC to get more staff for this effort. Some match may be required.

Next meeting

The next meeting will likely be in April. HCCC staff will send a Doodle Poll with some potential dates for the next meeting soon.