



Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC)

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

Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI) Workgroup Meeting #8

Date: June 30, 2020; 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Links:

- [Agenda](#)
- [Opportunity Statement, Goal, and Objectives](#)
- [Objective #5](#) (“Harvest Opportunities”)
- [Objective #6](#) (“Cultural Appreciation”)
- [Hood Canal Shellfish Summit Plans](#)
- [Actions survey #1](#)

Attendees:

- Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish Farms
- Camille Speck, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Blair Paul, Skokomish Indian Tribe
- Dan Tonnes, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Jen Doughty, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
- Jon Wolf, Skokomish Indian Tribe
- Kevin Shutty, Mason County Commission
- Laura Butler, WA Dept. of Agriculture
- Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Phil Best, Hood Canal Environmental Council
- Dawn Hanson Smart, Hood Canal Snail

Facilitators:

- Nate White, HCCC
- Haley Harguth, HCCC
- Kelly Biedenweg, Oregon State University (OSU)

Welcome and Introductions

HCCC staff reviewed the agenda and provided an overview of the meeting.

Review revised [Opportunity Statement, Goal, and Objectives](#)

HCCC staff reviewed recent revisions to the HCSI Opportunity Statement, Goal, and Objectives that were made in response to feedback received from HCCC Board members during the June 2020 HCCC Board meeting. The feedback centered on making a stronger statement and placing more of an emphasis on tribal treaty rights. HCCC reviewed the revisions highlighted in the document and received approval from the Workgroup.

Discuss Objective #5 (“Harvest Opportunities”) and Objective #6 (“Cultural Appreciation”) Actions

Note: The actions are a combination of ideas generated from previous Workgroup meetings, HCCC staff ideas, and ideas generated in subgroup discussions.

The Workgroup discussed the remaining actions that were brainstormed for [Objective #5 \(“Harvest Opportunities”\)](#) and the actions for [Objective #6 \(“Cultural Appreciation”\)](#).

Participants were asked to review the actions with the following questions in mind in order to ensure that the actions that most impact the objectives are included in the HCSI Action Plan.

Actions review questions:

- Are there any surprises?
- Any actions missing?
- Any actions we can remove?
- What are some of the challenges/realities/logistics of the remaining actions?
- What actions do you want to see implemented more than others?
- Are you aware of other views on these actions, perhaps from those who are not here?
- How can climate change and resilience be incorporated into the actions?

All of the Workgroup comments related to the actions are captured in the “Full Workgroup Notes” column of the linked spreadsheets.

Discuss Shellfish Summit Plans

HCCC staff reviewed revised plans for the Hood Canal Shellfish Summit, which was originally planned as a large, in-person workshop during Summer 2020 to collect public feedback on the draft HCSI Action Plan. However, COVID-19 restrictions have created the need for alternative arrangements. As a result, HCCC proposed the Summit be held as a webinar, still to be held in late summer.

The Summit will be a half-day or less virtual event where the draft HCSI Action Plan will be presented to the broader Hood Canal community to gain buy in and support of the plan, which needs to occur before moving into implementation of actions. Outreach will be conducted to reach a broad audience including tribes, growers, state partners, local community groups, local jurisdictions, the general public, and others interested in Hood Canal shellfish. Speakers may also be recruited to speak on topical shellfish issues. Small breakout groups may be formed to have topical discussions and to discuss the Action Plan in more detail. HCCC anticipates challenges with adapting a large, in-person event to a virtual format, but effort will be made to use the appropriate technology to make it work.

HCCC staff noted that due to the nature of the HCSI grant, and compounded by the uncertainty of future COVID restrictions, it is difficult for HCCC to withhold grant funds for a possible future in-person event. However, if the Workgroup still wants an in-person event to occur in the future, then it is recommended to make the event an action so that it can potentially be funded with implementation funds (if the action is prioritized for funding).

Workgroup comments

- The Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association is having their fall conference in a virtual format. Connie Smith is the organizer and may have recommendations for appropriate technology to use.
- The Blue Jeans virtual meeting platform was recommended
- The Zoom Conference virtual meeting platform was recommended. This was the platform used for the virtual 2020 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.
- HCCC staff: what would be some topical issues for potential speakers to present on?
 - Tribal treaty rights
 - Guidance for shellfish gardening, and the transition to commercial farming
 - Recreational harvest opportunities
 - Shellfish 101 (get people excited about shellfish)
 - Tactics to be a better harvester
 - Resources available, content that harvesters ought to know, but might not

Take Actions Survey #1

HCCC staff explained that the remaining time during the meeting was to review changes made to the actions surveys, and for Workgroup members to take actions survey #1 for Objectives #1 (“Olympia Oysters”), Objective #3 (Water Quality), and Objective #4 (Sustainable Industry) if they have not already. The actions surveys asks participants what actions they think are most feasible and will most impact each HCSI Objective. Two actions surveys were previously sent to the Workgroup to complete, but the response rate was low.

Prior to the meeting, HCCC and OSU staff simplified the surveys based on Workgroup feedback to make them shorter and easier to understand. Participants who did not take the surveys the first time were asked to take the surveys again. Participants who partially completed surveys were also asked to take them again. Participants who already took the surveys do not have to take them again.

OSU staff discussed why the survey is important:

- A little more than 60 actions have been developed for the six HCSI Objectives. Because it would be very complicated to understand the impact of more than 60 actions across the six Objectives, as well as not having enough funding to implement all of them, they need to be prioritized. The surveys help us do this.
- The central survey question is: to what extent would doing each of the actions influence each of the six objectives? Getting feedback on the relative impact each action has on each objective will help us prioritize what actions will be included in the HCSI Action Plan. Answers will vary among Workgroup members based on their experience, availability of data, etc.
- After the survey, we will have a list of actions that scored the highest across all objectives, and these will be the actions that are candidates for prioritization. This entire process is iterative, so once the survey results are in, full Workgroup discussions will be had to agree on which actions to prioritize. If necessary, the surveys can be taken again until the Workgroup agrees on the final list of prioritized actions. This is OK, as the Structured Decision Making process we are using for the HCSI is based on the Workgroup’s values. Ultimately, we want to prioritize what is most valued by the Workgroup.

OSU staff walked the Workgroup through actions survey #1 and discussed the changes made.

- Today we are taking actions survey #1.
- The instructions at the top of the survey were revised to better explain how to take the survey, and an example was included for reference.
- There are three pages of the survey. Click the arrow at the bottom to go to the next page. When you reach the “thank you for completing the survey” screen, you are done.
- Actions are listed in the left column of the survey; objectives are listed in a row across the top. The objectives repeat themselves in the middle of the survey to make scrolling easier.
- Make sure to put a number (0-5) in each box based on how much you think the action will impact each respective objective. If an action would highly impact an objective, it will score higher; if an action will impact an objective less, it will score lower. Every box should contain a number.
- Actions can impact multiple objectives, so that is why we are asking for scores across all the objectives for each action. It is OK to score an action similarly across all objectives, however it is advised to be very selective and limit giving the same score for an action across all the objectives, because it does not distinguish priorities.
- Even though actions can impact multiple objectives, the survey is still organized under the objective they were originally brainstormed for.
- It is recommended to take the survey on a computer. The survey can be taken on a mobile phone, but it may be difficult to see everything on a smaller screen.
- Recognizing that everyone is highly individual, it is estimated the survey will take between 15-45 minutes to complete.

Next Steps

Participants who did not attend Workgroup Meeting #8, or those who have not yet or partially completed actions survey #1 are strongly encouraged to take the survey by **COB July 17**. We will be discussing actions survey #2 for Objectives #2 (“Shellfish Habitat”), Objective #5 (“Harvest Opportunities”), and Objective #6 (“Cultural Appreciation”) at the next meeting, so getting results for the first survey before then is important.

Actions survey #2 will also be open before the next meeting so participants are encouraged to take it prior to the meeting. The deadline for actions survey #2 is **COB July 29**. Participants who complete actions survey #2 prior to the next meeting are free to leave the meeting early.

The next meeting will be held July 29, from 12:00-2:00 on Zoom. An RSVP has been sent: please RSVP if you have not already. During the meeting, the Workgroup will weigh the HCSI Objectives to assist with prioritization, determine desired goals for each objective’s performance measures, review some DASEES Structured Decision Making sample results, and take actions survey #2 for the remaining objectives.