



Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC)

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

Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI) Workgroup Meeting #9

Date: July 29, 2020; 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Links:

- [Agenda](#)
- [Hood Canal Shellfish Summit Potential dates](#)
- [Weighted Objectives](#)
- [Actions survey #2](#)

Attendees:

- Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish Farms
- Blair Paul, Skokomish Indian Tribe
- Camille Speck, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- David Fyfe, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Jen Doughty, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
- Rachel Hansen, Northwest Event Organizers
- Phil Best, Hood Canal Environmental Council
- Paul McCollum, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Laura Butler, WA Dept. of Agriculture

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. New Workgroup member Rachel Hansen was introduced. Rachel does tourism and marketing for Mason County, Oysterfest, and oyster farmers, and is Vice President for a marine education science society. Rachel also edits the Fjord magazine which is published quarterly and has a readership of 10K. Rachel offered to do reporting on any outputs of the HCSI. Rachel lives in Shelton and helps operate a family shellfish farm.

Hood Canal Shellfish Summit update

HCCC staff reviewed potential Hood Canal Shellfish Summit dates with the Workgroup. The dates proposed are October 8, Oct. 15, Oct. 22, and Oct. 29. HCCC staff wanted to hold the Summit in September, but scheduling conflicts prohibited that. The Workgroup was asked if they know of any scheduling conflicts with the proposed dates

Workgroup comments

- October 8
 - o The Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association annual conference is occurring on this date.
- October 15:

- The Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel has a meeting from 9:00-3:00 on this date.
- October 22
 - There is a tide cycle that will occupy some growers time on this date.
- October 29
 - State employees are required to take one furlough day a month until November due to COVID-19 restrictions. State employees will often take them on Fridays, and sometimes extend their time off by taking leave the day before. This situation may cause scheduling conflicts on Thursdays.

Weight the HCSI Objectives

HCCC staff guided the Workgroup in a facilitated discussion to prioritize the six HCSI Objectives. Workgroup members used the polling tool Poll Everywhere to individually rank the objectives by priority. The initial rankings are listed below:

- 1) Objective #3: Protect and improve Hood Canal's water quality
- 2) Objective #2: Protect and improve shellfish habitat
- 3) Objective #6: Promote cultural appreciation of Hood Canal shellfish
- 4) Objective #4: Support a sustainable Hood Canal commercial shellfish industry
- 5) Objective #5: Expand harvest opportunities for treaty tribes, the local community, & visitors
- 6) Objective #1: Restore native Hood Canal Olympia Oyster shellfish populations

Once these initial rankings were submitted, HCCC staff led the Workgroup in a discussion of the weights that should be placed on each objective. Determining weights is part of the Structured Decision Making (SDM) approach that is guiding the overall prioritization of the HCSI Action Plan. The discussion began with the last two objectives with the question: how much more important is the second to last objective than the last objective? This question was asked for the next objective above the second to last objective, and repeated this way until all objectives were weighted. The Workgroup was shown a scale to translate their qualitative comments into a percentage. The [Weighted Objectives](#) spreadsheet summarizes this discussion.

This percentage was converted by Kelly Biedenweg (OSU) to the relative weights that will be used in the SDM program (DASEES) to determine HCSI priorities using the following equation:

$$X + 1.65x + 1.65x + 1.35(1.65x) + 1.65(1.35(1.65x)) + 1.65(1.35(1.65x)) = 1$$

X=.08

The final weights for each Objective resulting from this calculation are listed below:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Objective #3: Water quality | .29 |
| 1. Objective #2: Shellfish Habitat | .29 |
| 2. Objective #6: Cultural appreciation | .18 |
| 3. Objective #4: Sustainable Hood Canal industry | .13 |
| 3. Objective #5: Harvest opportunities | .13 |
| 4. Objective #1: Restore native Olympia Oysters | .08 |

Objective #5 (“Harvest opportunities”) and Objective #1 (“Olympia Oysters”)

Workgroup comments:

- Harvest opportunities are substantially more important than Olympia Oysters because Olympia Oysters are already repopulating themselves. They could use some enhancement, but it’s already happening. In contrast, we can expand harvest opportunities through our activities through this initiative.
- Agreement with the above. People need to be able to harvest to have an appreciation for it and want to do the other things above (protect, restore habitat, etc.). This will get them

excited about the initiative. Prefer to rank commercial industry higher, but sees the value of both the recreational and economic and is fine with them being weighted the same.

- Didn't realize Olympia Oysters were doing well, so agreement to rank them lower.

Objective #4 ("Sustainable Industry") and Objective #5 ("Harvest Opportunities")

Workgroup comments:

- The commercial industry is both treaty and non-treaty. There is also tribal and non-tribal recreational harvest. The industry will be more active in maintaining the populations. Supports industry being a little higher than harvest opportunities.

Objective #6 ("Cultural appreciation") and Objective #4 ("Sustainable Industry")

Workgroup comments:

- Ranked cultural appreciation high because sees it running hand in hand with the others. Cultural appreciation of shellfish includes both a historical and contemporary perspective. It makes the other things work and would rate this as "A lot" more important than the others.
- Promoting cultural appreciation is something HCCC could be really effective at and uniquely positioned for; the other pieces have too many moving parts.
- Cultural appreciation connects to marketing (historic and modern culture).
- The point of creating cultural appreciation is to protect and improve. We can't have one without the other.
- There shouldn't be such a large gap between cultural appreciation and sustainable industry.
- Cultural appreciation is somewhat more important than harvest opportunities and industry.
- Cultural appreciation is a lot more important than harvest opportunities and industry.

A compromise was reached, calling cultural appreciation significantly more important than harvest opportunities and industry.

Objective #2 ("Shellfish Habitat") and Objective #6 ("Cultural appreciation")

Workgroup comments:

- Habitat is a lot more important than cultural appreciation.
- Habitat is fundamental to the entire discussion.
- This could be a case of lumping vs. splitting. If we have no shellfish habitat, cultural appreciation doesn't matter. Yet they are both important.
- Would weight water quality and habitat the same, but highly above the rest.
- These are our goals – what we want to do with the initiative. Protecting and improving is the heart of HCCC.
- OK with the proposed rankings, but struggles with how to measure the habitat Objective.

Objective #3 ("Water Quality") and Objective #2 ("Shellfish Habitat")

Workgroup comments:

- Struggling how to articulate the water quality objective. We are missing an objective associated with the healthy ecosystems of Hood Canal (i.e. associated with salmon or other ecosystem components). Recognizes this is about shellfish, but thinks we should consider broader aspects. Would rank water quality higher than everything else if it considered healthy ecosystems.
 - o HCCC staff comment: The HCSI is part of HCCC's Integrated Watershed Plan (IWP), which covers broader ecosystem goals. By including the HCSI into the IWP, it is ensuring that shellfish will be considered within the context of the entire Hood Canal ecosystem.
- Water quality is the primary way that humans interact with shellfish health.

Determine Performance Measure targets

The Workgroup was asked to confirm the existing Performance Measures. After that, it was explained that the next step will be to create targets for each Performance Measure so we know when we have achieved the desired performance measure. Subgroups will be formed to develop

targets for each Performance Measure, and their results will be reported back to the main group. Volunteers were sought from the Workgroup to help HCCC staff decide targets.

Workgroup comments:

- We need more metrics for cultural appreciation and protecting habitat.
- Could check with Port Gamble S'Klallam staff to help identify indicators. Armoring is good to work on, but it's going backwards
- Bring in someone from WDFW habitat (Chris Waldbillig)

Take [actions survey #2](#)

HCCC staff explained that the remaining time during the meeting was for Workgroup members to take actions survey #2 for Objectives #2 ("Shellfish Habitat"), Objective #5 ("Harvest Opportunities"), and Objective #6 ("Cultural Appreciation") if they have not already. The actions surveys asks participants what actions they think are most feasible and will most impact each HCSI Objective. Participants were instructed to skip rating any actions that they do not have knowledge on, but to make sure to complete the entire survey. Further instructions are listed at the beginning of the survey. Participants are encouraged to contact HCCC staff if they have questions about the survey. The survey will be open until August 5.

Next Steps

The next meeting will be held Aug. 11, 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 review the results of both actions surveys, and begin to select the actions that will be prioritized in the HCSI Action Plan.