



OUR HOOD CANAL

2020 Ecosystem Report Card



Who We Are

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) is a council of governments formed in 1985 with a mission to work in partnership to advance a shared regional vision to recover and protect Hood Canal's environment and community wellbeing.

HCCC's members include the surrounding counties (Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason) and tribal governments (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, and Skokomish Tribe). The HCCC Board of Directors includes county commissioners and tribal council chairs from each member government, as well as ex-officio partners.

Learn more about HCCC at [HCCC.wa.gov](https://www.hccc.wa.gov)



What We Do

As a regional body with multiple roles, HCCC partners with jurisdictions and organizations around Hood Canal to enhance our collective impact. HCCC utilizes a variety of tools to put its shared regional strategies into action.



Integrated Watershed Planning

The Hood Canal **Integrated Watershed Plan (IWP)** aligns the region's extensive ecosystem recovery work in an integrated strategic approach that guides HCCC's various programs, including its role as the **Hood Canal Local Integrating Organization (LIO)** under the **Puget Sound Action Agenda**. HCCC develops planning tools and facilitates processes to activate the IWP and improve the effectiveness of our collective work.

Learn more about Hood Canal ecosystem recovery at [OurHoodCanal.org](https://www.ourhoodcanal.org) and [HCCC.wa.gov/IWP](https://www.hccc.wa.gov/IWP)



Salmon Recovery

HCCC guides Hood Canal salmon recovery as the **Regional Recovery Organization** for Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon, and the **Lead Entity** for Hood Canal Salmon Recovery. HCCC integrates salmon recovery guidance and IWP strategies to align regional ecosystem recovery actions.

Learn more about Hood Canal summer chum salmon recovery at [HCCC.wa.gov/SummerChum](https://www.hccc.wa.gov/SummerChum)



Mitigation

HCCC's **In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program** mitigates impacts to freshwater and marine aquatic resources. Mitigation credit sales provide funding to directly mitigate for specific development impacts. Funds are then applied to the compensatory protection and restoration of aquatic habitats to advance ecosystem recovery goals.

Learn more about HCCC's Mitigation Program at [HCCC.wa.gov/Mitigation](https://www.hccc.wa.gov/Mitigation)



Water Quality Protection

HCCC's **Hood Canal Regional Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program** brings together county health departments, tribal natural resource staff, conservation districts, state agencies, and other partners to strategically and collaboratively solve water quality challenges by coordinating strategies, sharing resources and knowledge, and seeking administrative efficiencies.

Learn more about the Hood Canal Regional PIC Program at [HCCC.wa.gov/PIC](https://www.hccc.wa.gov/PIC)

Hood Canal Integrated Watershed Plan

The IWP's strategies and actions are focused on protecting and improving Hood Canal's vital ecosystem components:



Forests



Marine Deepwater



Sense of Place



Beaches and Nearshore



Cultural Wellbeing



Local Foods



Deltas and Estuaries



Economic Vitality



Sound Stewardship



Rivers and Floodplains



Good Governance



Outdoor Activity

Learn more about IWP ecosystem components and their indicators at OurHoodCanal.org.

Hood Canal faces many challenges from our use of its land, waters, and resources, as well as dynamic ecological processes. HCCC's IWP addresses these challenges with the aim of achieving net ecological gain.

HOW DO WE MEET THESE CHALLENGES?

With coordinated strategies that leverage HCCC's and partners' tools to improve the way Hood Canal's lands, waters, and resources are managed.

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION	ACTION
 <p>Reaching and sustaining healthy salmon populations</p>	 <p>Protect and increase quality habitat. <i>(IWP Strategies 1.2, 1.3, 3.2)</i></p>	 <p>Identify the most important locations to focus protection and restoration efforts.</p>
 <p>Minimizing impacts from land development</p>	 <p>Improve land use and conservation planning through decision-making processes and landowner actions. <i>(IWP Strategies 1.2.2, 2.1.2, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, and others)</i></p>	 <p>Develop tools to enable and incentivize smart land use in the highest priority areas under the greatest risk.</p>
 <p>Preventing poor water quality</p>	 <p>Reduce bacteria and nutrients from non-point sources. <i>(IWP Strategies 2.1)</i></p>	 <p>Monitor for pollution, identify its source, and incentivize and assist landowners to fix the problems.</p>

2019-2020 Highlights

Hood Canal Landscape Assessment & Prioritization (LAP) Tool



The LAP Tool compiles and visualizes a variety of land use and landscape data overlaid with priority habitat protection and restoration areas, to highlight specific policy or conservatoin actions needed in precise locations.

Learn more about the LAP Tool.



Hood Canal Regional Pollution Identification & Correction Program - Phase 4



The Hood Canal Regional PIC Program continues to build on its collaborative foundation as it monitors priority shoreline areas and investigates pollution sources to open beaches and shellfish beds closed due to poor water quality. In Phase 3, 66 miles of shoreline were monitored, 380 site visits conducted, 55 septic system failures identified with 28 repaired and others in progress.

Read the Hood Canal Regional PIC Program Phase 3 Report.

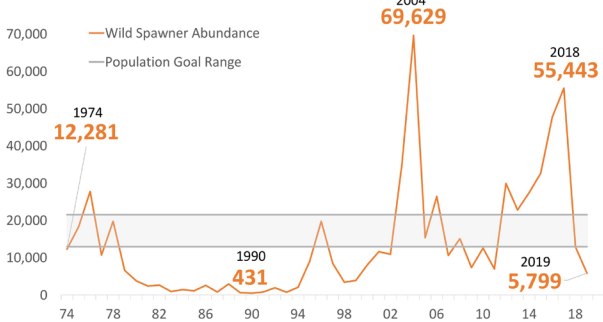
A Success Story: Hood Canal & Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery



HCCC's summer chum issues assessment will identify and prioritize the remaining work to ensure Hood Canal summer chum salmon populations continue to advance in the final stage of recovery. Habitat restoration and protection projects will continue to be strategically implemented to ensure high quality habitat.

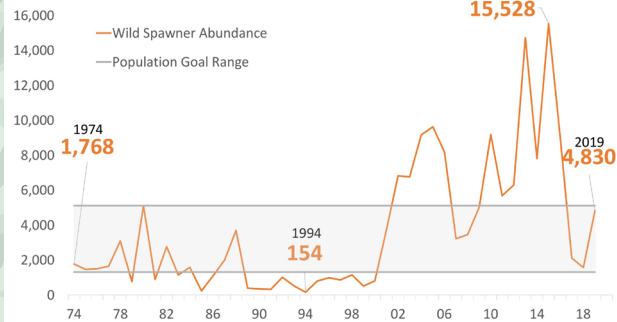
Read the 2021 HCCC Salmon Recovery Program Priorities and Immediate Needs and follow the salmon recovery project funding process at HCCC.wa.gov/LeadEntity.

Hood Canal Summer Chum Abundance



Data Source: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Treaty Tribes
Note: Data includes all subpopulations (not just extant populations)

Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Abundance



Data Source: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Treaty Tribes
Note: Data includes all subpopulations (not just extant populations)



Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative Action Plan

The Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI) focuses the region's shellfish protection and enhancement efforts through a collaborative of government, tribes, and community stakeholders. The HCSI Action Plan seeks to support and expand Hood Canal's thriving shellfish populations, honor tribal treaty rights, build resilience, pursue ecosystem protection and restoration, and support careful stewardship of commercial and recreational shellfish harvest now and into the future.

Learn more about the Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative at HCCC.wa.gov/ShellfishInitiative


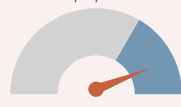












Big Beef Marine Shoreline Mitigation Project

Restoration on a 2.3 acre developed parcel with an additional 39 acres of tidelands began in 2020, including the removal of a dilapidated residence, garage, and five cabins and septic tanks situated along the shoreline. Restoration will continue in 2021 with the removal of an old creosote treated pier and native plantings. Invasive weed control, site maintenance, and monitoring will continue until at least 2026. The site will be stewarded over the long term and protected in perpetuity.



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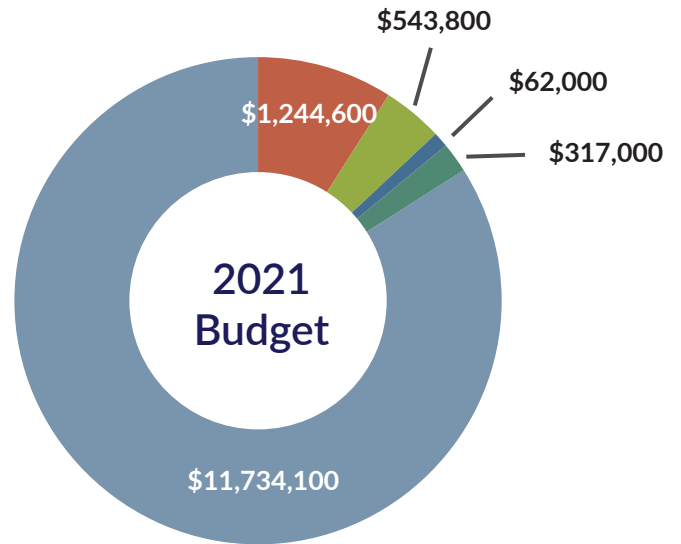
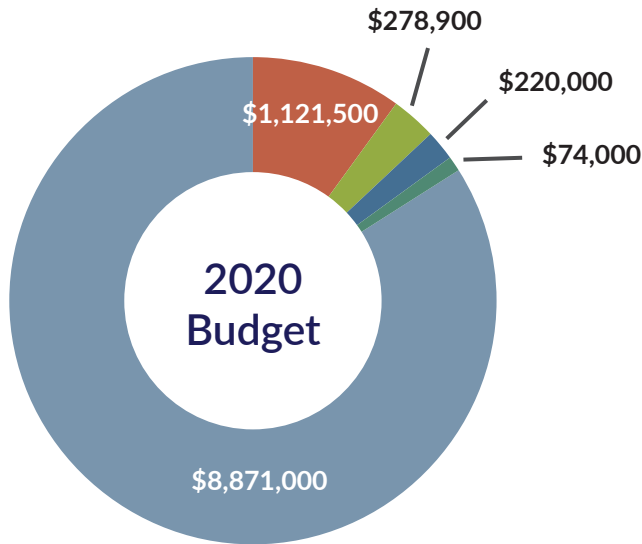
 <p>SALMON</p>	<p>Number of Summer Chum TARGET: Reach and maintain healthy and harvestable summer chum populations</p>  <p>IMPROVING</p> <p>Current populations have improved from a precipitous decline in the 1980-90's. Large peaks are to be expected every decade or so due to naturally oscillating environmental conditions. On average, summer chum populations are sustaining and approaching recovery targets.</p>	<p>Summer Chum Spatial Diversity TARGET: 10 sustainable and robust spawning aggregations</p>  <p>STEADY</p> <p>There are currently eight extant, robust, and increasing unique spawning aggregations across the Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon populations.</p>
	<p>Extent of Forest Cover TARGET: No net loss of total forest cover</p>  <p>DECREASING</p> <p>Combined forest cover has declined from 1992 to 2016. Concerning changes are also occurring within landscape types, showing losses in evergreen forests, grasslands, and agricultural lands, with increases in deciduous forests and developed areas, indicating the conversion of natural areas.</p>	 <p>SHELLFISH</p>
<p>FORESTS</p>	<p>WELLBEING</p>	
<p>Sense of Place TARGET: Hood Canal residents and visitors feel positive emotions from their experiences in the natural environment</p>  <p>STEADY</p> <p>On average, Hood Canal residents regularly experience wellbeing outdoors, agree that Hood Canal contributes to their sense of place, and are somewhat satisfied with life overall.</p>	<p>Participation in Cultural Practices TARGET: Hood Canal residents are able to frequently participate in cultural and traditional practices</p>  <p>STEADY</p> <p>On average, Hood Canal residents participate in cultural and traditional practices every few months, and nearly 75% do so at least quarterly.*</p>	
<p>Engagement in Stewardship Activities TARGET: Hood Canal residents and visitors feel connected to their communities through natural resource activities</p>  <p>STEADY</p> <p>Hood Canal residents engage in stewardship activities an average of more than once a month while 50% participate at least once a week. Sound Behavior Index scores have also increased steadily across Hood Canal counties.</p>	<p>Local Harvestable Foods Index TARGET: Hood Canal residents are sufficiently able to harvest local, wild foods</p>  <p>STEADY</p> <p>On average, Hood Canal residents hunt, forage, or collect local foods nearly 1-2 times a season.*</p>	<p>Natural Resource Industry Employment TARGET: Hood Canal natural resource industries significantly contribute to local communities</p>  <p>TBD</p> <p>Data is incomplete and/or showing mixed results. Tourism and recreation industry employment are steady or increasing in Hood Canal counties. Additional data analysis is needed.</p>
<p>Good Governance Index TARGET: Hood Canal residents and visitors know where to access information on natural resources issues and trust those sources</p>  <p>STEADY</p> <p>Hood Canal residents' satisfaction of the area's environmental governance is split evenly, with an average response of "Neutral."</p>	<p>Nature-based Recreation TARGET: Hood Canal residents actively utilize the outdoors for recreation</p>  <p>STEADY</p> <p>Two-thirds of Hood Canal residents participate in low intensity summer recreation activities at least monthly, while nearly half do so at least five times a month.*</p>	

*Note: New indicator; data is not comparable to previous human wellbeing survey results.

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

FINANCIALS

HCCC is funded through a variety of sources, including federal and state grants, private foundations, in-lieu fee mitigation credit sales, and member dues. In addition to our program funds, HCCC guides and supports partner projects through coordinated funding processes that ensure technical and community review.



■ In-Lieu Fee Mitigation
 ■ Salmon Recovery
 ■ Integrated Watershed Planning
 ■ Water Quality
 ■ Administration



STRATEGIC COLLABORATION:
Leveraging Dollars for Impact

\$14.3 million in 2020

HCCC amplifies its efforts by facilitating collaborative funding processes and guiding priority projects:

- Salmon recovery projects
- Other large-scale ecosystem recovery projects
- Near Term Actions in the Puget Sound Action Agenda
- Regional Pollution Identification & Correction Program partner support
- Shellfish Initiative projects

Note: Major funding sources included in estimate, may not include all contributing funds.

	2020	2021
Administration	28%	15%
Implementation	72%	86%

Note: Mitigation Program funds not included in this calculation.

Note: All numbers are estimates.



Learn more about HCCC, meet our Board of Directors and staff, view our meeting schedule, and access resources at:

HCCC.wa.gov | OurHoodCanal.org

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For general questions about HCCC, please contact:

admin@hccc.wa.gov | (360) 394-0046

Visit HCCC.wa.gov for HCCC staff contacts.

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