



Hood Canal Coordinating Council

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

17791 Fjord Drive NE, Suite 118, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI) Funding subgroup

Date: January 7, 2021; 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Links:

- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative - Call for Projects](#)
- [Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative - Project Proposals](#)
- [Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative - Project Evaluation Results](#)

Attendees:

- Kelly Biedenweg, Oregon State University
- Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish Farms
- Chris Eardley, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Dawn Hanson Smart, Hood Canal Snail
- Blair Paul, Skokomish Indian Tribe
- Jodie Toft, Puget Sound Restoration Fund
- Dan Tonnes, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Facilitators:

- Haley Harguth, HCCC
- Nate White, HCCC

Meeting overview

\$55,000 of implementation funds are available to kick off implementation of the Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI). A subgroup of the HCSI Workgroup met to evaluate HCSI Action Plan implementation project proposals and make a funding recommendation for the HCCC Board of Directors' consideration.

Review project proposals

Three project proposals were submitted for funding consideration. They are summarized below.

HCSI Implementation Project Proposals

| Project title | Sponsor | Budget | HCSI Objective/Action | Summary |
|---|--------------|----------|---|---|
| Mason County 2021 Pollution Identification & Correction (PIC) Support | Mason County | \$25,000 | Obj. 1: Water Quality/Action 1.A.1 (ranked #1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplemental water quality sampling • Sampling equipment |

| | | | | |
|--|---|----------|---|---|
| Salmon Center Laboratory Expansion | Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) | \$8,222 | Obj. 1: Water Quality/Action 1.A.1 (ranked #1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality lab equipment acquisition, setup, and accreditation |
| Advancing a custom-fit strategy for restoration of Olympia oysters in Hood Canal | Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) | \$54,000 | Obj. 6: Olympia Oysters/Action 6.B.1 (ranked #12) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |

Evaluate project proposals

Subgroup members used the assessment criteria below to evaluate project proposals.

HCSI Project Proposal Assessment Criteria

| | |
|--|---|
| Contribution to HCSI Goal | The relevant action's Priority Action Ranking; The relevant action's weighted Action Score |
| Alignment with the relevant HCSI objective and action | Alignment with the intent of the priority action Contribution to the objective and specific action |
| Likelihood of success: Feasibility | Feasibility of the project proposed: technical approach and appropriateness |
| Likelihood of success: Readiness | Project sponsor's readiness to successfully implement the project |

Subgroup members evaluated projects for each criterion on a scale of 1-5. The average criteria scores were multiplied by the relevant action's weighted score in the HCSI Action Plan to give the project's cumulative score. Final scores are in the "Call for Projects Evaluation Results" linked above. Members with direct involvement with any of the projects were advised to recuse themselves from the scoring discussion of those projects.

Comments:

General impressions

- All projects hit the mark
- Each proposal touched on multiple objectives
- Can funding be applied to multiple projects? Can partial funding be applied to a project?
 - o Group is amenable to splitting funds across projects, where they can be scaled

Project: Mason County 2021 PIC Support

- Why a late due date on purchase of equipment?
- What work is done after sampling finds pollution source, to make correction?
- Feasibility: more context about how additional samples would be used, how it would advance project toward end goal
- Geographic footprint limited to specific site (Annas Bay Shellfish Protection District)
- Very directly affects top HCSI priority
- Involves acquisition of tools that will enable future work
- Doesn't address how to deal with pollution problems when found through sampling

Project: Salmon Center Laboratory Expansion

- Readiness: Not clear that lab expansion would lead to lab work for local counties
- When are new water quality rules taking effect?
- Alignment: unclear how much of need exists for additional lab; is there a bottleneck in region? Is there a backlog? What work would this enable?
- Additional capacity is for E. coli; shellfish focused on marine water. Already have fecal coliform capacity.
- Uncertainty as to use of lab by Hood Canal counties
- Didn't describe broader sampling lab landscape, unclear of impact of project
- Not clear if lab would fill need
- Accreditation process not clear
- The project is partially funded already, so they may find remaining funding from other sources

Project: Advancing a custom-fit strategy for restoration of Olympia oysters in Hood Canal

- Scored the lowest cumulative project score, but scored the highest on all criteria not including the priority action rating
- Addresses priorities, strong on partnerships, addresses longstanding needs for strategic approach to Olympia oyster restoration. Tools will have lasting and broader benefit to Olympia oyster restoration as a whole.
- Timing is good, have capacity and expertise to get started right away
- Leveraging resources from Great Peninsula Conservancy (in-kind) for monitoring and education materials development
- This proposal has added value because it addresses multiple HCSI objectives (Olympia Oysters and Cultural Appreciation)

Funding Recommendation

The HCSI funding subgroup developed and considered three funding options before voting on the preferred option, summarized below. Each option splits the \$55,000 in available funds across multiple projects.

| Option | Scenario | Votes |
|--------|--|-------|
| 1 | Fully fund Mason Co. (\$25,000) Remaining funds to PSRF (\$30,000) | 0 |
| 2 | Partially fund Mason Co: Equipment only: (\$6,700) Remaining funds to PSRF (\$48,300) | 5 |
| 3 | Partially fund HCSEG: Equipment only: (\$6,000) Partially fund Mason Co: Equipment only (\$6,700) Remaining funds to PSRF (\$42,300) | 1 |

The funding subgroup’s funding recommendation is detailed below. Factors that led to this recommendation are provided below.

HCSI Implementation Funding Recommendation

| Project | Owner | Funding Allocation |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Mason County 2021 PIC Support | Mason County Public Health | Partial funding for equipment purchases Amount: \$6,700* |
| Advancing a custom-fit strategy for restoration of Olympia oysters in Hood Canal | Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) | Partial funding, project will be scaled down (TBD) Amount \$48,300* |

*Funding amounts are approximate and will be confirmed with the project owners. Small adjustments may be necessary.

Factors that influenced the workgroup’s recommendation:

- Emphasis for projects that addressed multiple objectives and actions
- Preference for a “showcase project” to kick off HCSI Action Plan implementation
- Despite the PSRF proposal’s lower cumulative project score, it was elevated because it met the above factors
- The Mason County proposal articulated an immediate need and application for the water quality equipment

Next Steps

1. Pending approval by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Board, HCCC will work immediately with WA Department of Health to amend our HCSI grant contract to subcontract with awardees
2. Pending the above, HCCC will subcontract with awardees and begin implementation ASAP