

# ***Hood Canal Coordinating Council***

JEFFERSON, KITSAP & MASON COUNTIES;  
PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM & SKOKOMISH TRIBES  
STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES

10 March 2011

Tom Eaton  
U.S. EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

Josh Baldi  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Eaton and Mr. Baldi:

The Hood Canal Aquatic Rehabilitation Program was created in 2005 by the Hood Canal Management Bill (ESHB 2097/RCW 90.88), designating the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) as the Local Management Board for Hood Canal. The HCCC and the Puget Sound Partnership are developing this program to address the human contributions to the low dissolved oxygen problem in Hood Canal, using all available scientific findings. The HCCC established a Technical Advisory Committee to advise decision-makers on the corrective and management actions that will address low dissolved oxygen in Hood Canal. The Technical Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), is developing an Aquatic Rehabilitation Action Plan with this purpose. The first phase of this Aquatic Rehabilitation Action Plan will be presented in June 2011 to the HCCC Board for their consideration and adoption.

The HCCC Technical Advisory Committee is committed to presenting the Board the Aquatic Rehabilitation Action Plan, including management and policy recommendations based on the available scientific information, by the June 2011 timeline. We would like to request that the Ecology and the EPA provide the HCCC with a review of technical and regulatory information relevant to this plan. Because this information is needed in advance of the June 2011 board meeting, we would appreciate this review before the end of April to benefit planning efforts.

On the technical front, there have been several studies of nitrogen and dissolved oxygen conducted regarding Hood Canal, but the studies vary in scope and stage of completion. It would be extremely helpful and HCCC requests that Ecology and EPA produce a brief summary on the current available scientific knowledge about human impacts on low dissolved oxygen. In addition, as the Aquatic Rehabilitation Action Plan intends to

recommend management and policy actions to address low dissolved oxygen in Hood Canal, the HCCC also requests that Ecology and EPA provide to HCCC a description of the relevant state and federal regulations that apply to the Hood Canal situation based on the summary of current, available scientific information.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Scott W. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below a thin horizontal line.

Scott Brewer