



HCCC Updates | Winter 2024



This newsletter shares information and resources to support the Hood Canal ecosystem recovery community. Know others who should receive it? Please share it around.

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Updates & Announcements

HCCC launched an updated website and logo. Visit [HCCC.wa.gov](https://hccc.wa.gov) to view newly updated information on our programs, and a much improved library and calendar, and check out our new logo above!

HCCC says farewell to two board members. Jefferson County Commissioner Kate Dean, and Mason County Commissioner Kevin Shutty are both stepping away from their roles at their respective counties, and as such, will no longer serve on the HCCC Board of Directors. We are grateful for their many contributions to HCCC's mission over the years and wish them a fond farewell and good luck in their next adventures.

The 2025 HCCC Lead Entity Grant Round is now kicking off. View this year's priorities in the [2025 HCCC Salmon Program Priorities and Immediate Needs and Call For Projects](#). Letters of Intent (LOI), using the [linked template](#), will be accepted until January 7th, 2025 for consideration for the 2025 grant round. Please submit all LOIs to Alicia Olivas at aolivas@hccc.wa.gov. View the complete [2025 Lead Entity Grant Round Schedule](#). Please reach out to Alicia with any questions or if you would like to discuss project proposals.

Are you considering applying for the Climate Resilient Riparian Systems grant for work in Hood Canal? If so, please contact HCCC's Alicia Olivas (aolivas@hccc.wa.gov) or Haley Harguth (hharguth@hccc.wa.gov) ASAP to share your ideas, as we look to facilitate partner collaboration opportunities across the watershed.

- **Are you interested in including beaver restoration in your riparian project?** If so, South Sound Beaver Recovery is interested in partnering. They are a small 501(c)(3) non-profit who provide beaver habitat evaluations, co-existence strategies & techniques for retaining beavers onsite, creating & installing beaver dam analogs, and relocation of beavers to restoration sites. Please contact Mark Heckert (MarkHeckert@outlook.com).

Hood Canal Local Integrating Organization (LIO) allocates funding for On-site Septic Action Plans projects. HCCC Board directed the LIO to allocate \$183,000 of newly awarded funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) via the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) to support implementation of priority water quality protection actions in Mason and Jefferson Counties.

First summer chum salmon return to Uncas Preserve on Snow Creek this fall. Fish returned higher in the system than had ever been documented since their decline. [View a video of these intrepid fish from North Olympic Salmon Coalition.](#)

WA Dept. of Ecology's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program launches survey to advance equity in Washington's coastal resilience efforts. Survey insights will directly inform two key initiatives: a strategic plan for the state's interagency [Coastal Hazards Organizational Resilience Team \(COHORT\)](#) and an action and implementation plan for the CZM Program. The survey is expected to take 15 to 20 minutes, and is confidential. Respond by Jan 10. [Survey linked here.](#)

NOAA released updated maps and datasets on employment in Coastal Inundation Zones. On November 12, NOAA released updated Employment in Coastal Inundation Zones data and new maps on [NOAA's Digital Coast website](#) and GeoPlatform. The first-of-its-kind data depicts the number of businesses and jobs potentially impacted by hurricane storm surge, 100-year flood zones, sea level rise, and tsunamis.

More king tides are coming! The second series of king tides, the highest high tides of the year, was December 13-17, 2024. The third series of winter king tides this season is January 11-15, 2025 - [check the Sea Grant king tides calendar to find more details for your area.](#) Anyone with a camera can help document the extent of these extreme high tides and help us catch a glimpse of

what sea level rise will look like in our region. In Washington, photos of King Tides can be uploaded to the [MyCoast App](#).

Watch [All Our Relations: Tribute to the Orca](#). Se'Si'Le, an Indigenous-led nonprofit organization based in Washington State, collaborated with Salish Sea and Northern Straits Native Nations and NGOs to host an Indigenous-centered public event during Orca Action Month, June 2024 at the Seattle Aquarium. All Our Relations: Tribute to the Orca is a moving 7-minute film drawing on footage from this event and other interviews. It delivers powerful, somber and urgent narratives from regional Indigenous leaders. Tribute to the Orca highlights Indigenous communities' ancient kinship with orcas and salmon, and the importance of reciprocity in our relationship with our caretaker: Mother Nature. This short film includes a special focus is on the Southern Resident orcas whose survival, like the survival of Indigenous lifeways here in the Pacific Northwest, depends on scha'enexw (the Salmon People).

Puget Sound Habitat, Shellfish, and Stormwater Strategic Initiative Leads (SILs) presented the outcomes of the SIL 1.0 Cooperative Agreements and Looking Ahead in Puget Sound Recovery. View the [recording](#) and [pdf](#) of the October 30, 2024 All PSP Boards Webinar. The SILs also have a [1-pager available](#) highlighting SIL and SIL-funded partner accomplishments.

Coastal Training Program needs assessment. Please fill out the [brief survey](#) (~15 minutes) and help contribute to identifying new and in-demand training topics. Participants who complete the survey by January 13th, 2025 will be entered into a drawing to for a \$105 credit towards a future Coastal Training Program class!

New report and dashboard show Climate Commitment Act investments. A [new annual report](#) and [online dashboard](#) show how Climate Commitment Act (CCA) revenue was spent on projects ranging from wildfire resiliency and salmon habitat restoration to pedestrian and biking infrastructure, energy bill assistance, and new clean energy sources.

Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission co-hosted a **“Fish and the Farm Bill”** panel on December 17th. The recording is available [here](#).

New indicator tracks & visualizes ocean acidification in Washington. WA Dept. of Ecology is measuring the impacts of carbon pollution to help support healthy ocean habitats, and assist communities in adapting to change. Ocean acidification threatens marine wildlife, people's livelihoods, cultural traditions, and the state's economy. [Learn more](#).

Puget Sound Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead (SIL) announces \$1.75 million of EPA Puget Sound Funds into five proposals to advance Puget Sound habitat recovery. The investments are distributed across two priorities that support healthy shorelines: (1) Restoration effectiveness of soft shore alternatives to hard armor; (2) Planning for sea level rise and climate related hazards to nearshore habitat. [More info](#).

[Protecting the health of people who eat fish: The long battle over water quality standards](#); UW-Puget Sound Institute, by Christopher Dunagan

[Olympia oyster project receives more funding](#); Peninsula Daily News

[Mysterious sharks gain recognition as scientists explore their contributions to Puget Sound](#); UW-Puget Sound Institute, by Christopher Dunagan

[Some orcas extend their stay in Puget Sound; others visit capture site for first time in years](#); UW-Puget Sound Institute, by Christopher Dunagan

[2024 saw some good news for Pacific Northwest salmon](#); Seattle Times

[No end in sight for WA's battle against invasive green crabs](#); Seattle Times

[Why these orcas are wearing salmon as hats \(again\)](#); National Geographic
[Why are orcas wearing salmon hats?](#); KUOW

Events

HCCC events - Partner events around Hood Canal & Puget Sound - Education & training opportunities

HCCC Board Meeting - Jan 15, 1-4 pm. Virtual and in-person at HCCC's office in Poulsbo. Visit [HCCC's calendar](#) to view all board meeting dates. Details and materials are available on the website approximately one week before the meeting date.

Sign-up to receive board meeting notices

Puget Sound Partnership Management Conference Boards - Upcoming and past meeting [information and materials](#).

- **Leadership Council** - Mar 6; Olympia area - TBD (in-person)
- **Ecosystem Coordination Board** - Feb 5; Virtual
- **Salmon Recovery Council** - Jan 23; Virtual
- **Science Panel** - Feb 25; Virtual

Puget Sound Partnership Monthly Funding Update Calls - Every 1st Monday of the month. These calls provide a forum to highlight current funding opportunities posted on [Puget Sound RAFT website](#)) and for partners to share funding needs, upcoming projects, collaborate, and ask questions. [Meeting Link](#). Meeting ID: 271 626 386 376; Passcode: tdQFWR.

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee - Jan 7, 6-8 pm; Hybrid meeting at WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd), and via Zoom. [More info.](#)

Puget Sound Institute Salish Sea Science Roundtable: Insights from “End-to-End” ecosystem modeling of the Strait of Georgia - Jan 7, 12:30-1:30 pm; Registration required. [More info.](#)

Navigating Coastal Hazards Workshop 2 - Feb 10-11. The workshop goal is to advance collaborative research, leadership, adaptive capacity, and innovative strategies for coastal resilience to geohazards by building on previous efforts and fostering stronger partnerships. [Register here](#) by Dec 27th.

Coastal Training Program - Registration is open for classes scheduled for December 2024 - March 2025. [See all upcoming courses here.](#)

Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) Meetings ([meeting information](#)):

- **Toxics Working Group - 6PPD-q and Human Health:** Jan 31, 12-2pm
- **Diseases Workgroup:** Jan 5, 3-4 pm

Funding Opportunities

Check out [PS RAFT](#) for all current Puget Sound-related grants and [Coastal Quest](#) for national funding opportunities

PSP’s Strategic Funding Team may be able to support your pursuit of funding opportunities:

1. General inquiries - Contact strategicfunding@psp.wa.gov
2. [Funding Barriers Request - Tribes and Local Partners](#) - Share funding barriers that you have experienced. Contact Jessica.Reynolds@psp.wa.gov
3. [Grant Writer Technical Assistance Request Form](#) - PSP can assist with grant writing, identifying funding opportunities, and monitor grant progression. Contact Michelle.Deckard@psp.wa.gov

Puget Sound Strategic Initiative Lead (SIL) RFPs:

- **Stormwater SIL**
 - RFPs out now for the following priorities:
 - Climate Resiliency in Stormwater Management. Due Jan 3.
 - Regional Facilities and Stormwater Parks. Due Jan 3.
 - Toxics in Fish (three priorities). Due Jan 3.

- Upcoming RFPs:
 - Critical Analysis and Guidance for Aligning MS4 Permits and Growth Management Act. Opens Jan 2025.
 - Feasibility Study for Small-Scale Wastewater Treatment Systems. Opens Jan 2025.
 - Enhanced Stormwater System Maintenance. Opens Jan 2025.
 - Neighborhood Stormwater Education and Assistance. Opens Feb 2025.
 - Toxics Reduction in Local Pretreatment Programs. Opens Feb 2025.
- See the [Stormwater SIL RFP webpage](#) for more information and for upcoming webinars for interested participants.
- **Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Lead:** Grant solicitation now open! A new riparian restoration and protection focused funding opportunity is open to support the following community identified priorities in Puget Sound watersheds. Technical assistance office hours will be held in December and January – please find more information about the opportunity on the [Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Grants application resources](#) webpage. Closes Jan 15.
 - Priority A: Collaborative, reach-scale planning and outreach
 - Priority B: Native plant materials
 - Priority C: Landowner incentives
 - Priority D: Riparian restoration implementation
 - Priority E: Maintenance, monitoring, and adaptive management
 - Priority F: Permanent protection of riparian habitat

PSP RFI for Salmon Science Investigations - Collaborative proposals to conduct studies that support regional salmon recovery. Informational webinar is January 8, 1-2 pm, [registration required](#). Due Mar 10. [More info](#).

PSP RFI for Monitoring to Accelerate Recovery - Aimed to support monitoring projects supporting Vital Signs or addressing information needs in the recovery system. The solicitation for project proposals will be released in early January. Proposals due in late March. [More info](#).

Climate Smart Communities Initiative. This funding will help communities accelerate their climate resilience plans and projects. Due March 2025. [More info](#).

NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants. Due Apr 16. [More info](#).

WA Dept. of Ecology Public Participation Grant - This program supports people and eligible nonprofits who are working to improve Washington's waste management system. Applications for the 2025 grant cycle will be accepted through Jan 7 - Feb. 4. [More info](#).

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Wildlife Diversity Grant - WDFW is now accepting grant applications for projects designed to benefit some of Washington's more imperiled wildlife. Due January 19th, 2025. [More info](#).

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grants support volunteer projects that benefit the state's fish and wildlife resources and the public's enjoyment of them. Project types include habitat restoration, scientific research/community science, public education and outreach, facility development and artificial fish production. Closes Feb 28. [More info.](#)

NOAA Restoring Fish Passage Through Barrier Removal. Up to \$75 million in funding is available through the Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal funding opportunity. This funding will support the locally led removal of dams and other in-stream barriers. Closes Feb10. [More info.](#)

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects. FY25-26's \$95M of funding focuses on restoring and protecting aquatic ecosystems. Due Apr 15. [More info.](#)

Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Aquatic Resources Program. This new grant initiative is aimed at advancing the restoration, protection, and sustainable management of aquatic habitats and water resources on public lands. Due Feb 14. [More info.](#)

Restore America's Estuaries - National Estuary Program Watersheds Grant Program. This is a nationally competitive grant program designed to support projects that address urgent, emerging, and challenging issues threatening the well-being of estuaries within the 28 NEPs. LOIs due Jan 17. [More info.](#)

Job Announcements

NOAA Coastal Resilience Fellowship Program with WA Dept. of Ecology - Two positions: Climate Resilience, Equity, and Engagement Fellow, and Climate Resilience Outreach and Storytelling Fellow. Due Feb 28. [More info.](#)

U.S. Coast Guard D13 RRT Coordinator, Environmental Protection Specialist, GS-13 - Closes Dec 16. Public: [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#); Federal Employees/Vets: [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)



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Please send questions to Haley Harguth, hharguth@hccc.wa.gov.

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