

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA 8) SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL



Beaux Arts Village
Bellevue
Bothell
Clyde Hill
Edmonds
Hunts Point
Issaquah
Kenmore
Kent
King County
Kirkland
Lake Forest Park
Maple Valley
Medina
Mercer Island
Mill Creek
Mountlake Terrace
Mukilteo
Newcastle
Redmond
Renton
Sammamish
Seattle
Shoreline
Snohomish County
Woodinville
Woodway
Yarrow Point

Cedar River Council
Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Long Live the Kings
Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
Mountains to Sound Greenway
Northwest Marine Trade Association
Sno-King Watershed Council
Trout Unlimited
Water Tenders

Alderwood Water and Wastewater District
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
US Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Departments:
Ecology
Fish and Wildlife
Natural Resources
Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts
King Conservation District

February 13, 2017

Barry Thom
Regional Administrator for the West Coast Region
NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-0070



Dear Mr. Thom,

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council (Council), I wish to welcome you to your new post as NOAA Regional Administrator for the West Coast Region. NOAA is a member of the WRIA 8 Council, which is comprised of 28 local governments and stakeholder representatives from businesses, community groups, concerned citizens, and state and federal agencies. Collaboratively, these partners have been working since 2000 to recover Chinook salmon in our watershed. The Council greatly appreciates NOAA's engagement in recovery of Chinook salmon in WRIA 8 and around Puget Sound. As the federal agency responsible for the listing of Puget Sound Chinook under the Endangered Species Act, your continued leadership and support for locally-driven salmon recovery is critical.

Mike Grady, Natural Resource Specialist, represents NOAA on the WRIA 8 Council. As a participating member of the WRIA 8 Council, NOAA advises funding decisions for habitat protection and restoration, assists in developing policies to guide implementation of recovery actions, and provides federal perspective and context for the on-the-ground work. NOAA will continue to be a very helpful member of the Council as we get more sophisticated in our implementation, update our watershed-based Chinook salmon recovery plan, and work to identify adequate funding to implement projects.

We look forward to continuing the strong partnership between WRIA 8 and NOAA under your leadership. **The Council would like to invite you to one of our future meetings, and we will be in touch to coordinate schedules.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, either by phone at 206-477-4780 or email at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andy Rheume
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Mayor, City of Bothell

cc: Kim Kratz, NOAA- National Marine Fisheries Service
Elizabeth Babcock, NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service
Mike Grady, NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members