



## AGENDA

**Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed  
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council  
Thursday, November 21, 2019, 2:00-4:15PM**

**NOTE MEETING TIME and LOCATION**

**Mercer Island Community Center  
8236 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island**

**Meeting  
Packet Page**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introductions</b>		John Stokes, Chair Councilmember, City of Bellevue	<b>2:00-2:05</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>		John Stokes	<b>2:05-2:10</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Consent Agenda:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Meeting Notes for September 19, 2019</li> <li>• Approval of Cooperative Watershed Management 2020 grant round funding guidance</li> </ul>	3 7	John Stokes	<b>2:10-2:15</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Updates &amp; Announcements</b>	8	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager	<b>2:15-2:35</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Lake Sammamish Kokanee Status and Emergency Recovery Actions</b> (Information/Discussion) Hear an update on the status of the Lake Sammamish Kokanee population, emergency recovery efforts initiated this year, and future priorities, including overlap with Chinook recovery.		Perry Falcone, King County  David St. John, King County	<b>2:35-3:10</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Sockeye Salmon Status and Management</b> (Information/Discussion) Hear a presentation on the biology and history of sockeye salmon in WRIA 8, current status of the population, management, and overlap with Chinook salmon recovery priorities.		Aaron Bosworth, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  Carol Volk, Seattle Public Utilities	<b>3:10-4:00</b>

7.	<b>Success Story: Water Watchers Program</b> Hear a presentation from Sno-King Watershed Council about their community-based water monitoring program in the north King / south Snohomish county area, which seeks to foster watershed stewardship through the development of volunteer water monitors who monitor physical, chemical and biological indicators of stream water quality.		Eric Adman, Sno-King Watershed Council	<b>4:00-4:15</b>
8.	<b>Wrap Up &amp; Adjourn</b>		John Stokes	<b>4:15</b>

**Next Meeting:**  
**January 16, 2020, 2:00-4:15PM**  
**Department of Ecology, NW Regional Office,**  
**3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue**

<b>Members Present</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1)	Eric Adman	Sno-King Watershed Council
2)	Councilmember (CM) Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
3)	Bea Covington	King Conservation District
4)	Don Davidson	Washington Policy Center
5)	Larry Franks	Friends of Issaquah Fish Hatchery (FISH)
6)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
7)	Noel Gilbrough	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
8)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
9)	CM Ryan McIrvin	City of Renton
10)	Joe Miles	WA State Department of Natural Resources
11)	CM Hank Myers	City of Redmond
12)	CM Dana Parnello	City of Maple Valley
13)	CM Mark Phillips, Vice-Chair	City of Lake Forest Park
14)	Stewart Reinbold	WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife
15)	Gary Smith	Water Tenders/Trout Unlimited
16)	CM John Stokes, Chair	City of Bellevue
17)	CM Pam Stuart	City of Sammamish
<b>Alternates Present</b>		
18)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
19)	Garrett Holbrook	King County
20)	Michelle Koehler	City of Seattle
21)	Jordanna Warneck	WA State Department of Natural Resources
<b>Others Present</b>		
22)	Judy Blanco	King County
23)	Carrie Byron	Puget Sound Partnership
24)	Trina Contreras	WA State Department of Natural Resources
25)	Stephanie Eckard	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
26)	Gregg Farris	Snohomish County
27)	Kirstin Haugen	King Conservation District
28)	Alex Herzog	City of Woodinville
29)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
30)	Joan Lee	King County
31)	Paulina Levy	WA State Department of Ecology
32)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
33)	Kathy Minsch	City of Seattle
34)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8
35)	Brandon Parsons	American Rivers
36)	Kit Paulsen	City of Bellevue
37)	Stephanie Potts	WA State Department of Ecology
38)	Audrie Starsy	City of Newcastle
39)	Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8
40)	Laura West	WRIA 8
41)	Jason Wilkinson	WRIA 8

**I) Call to Order / Introductions**

Chair Stokes called the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. Chair Stokes read aloud an email from Seattle Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda in which she expressed support for Seattle Public Utility’s multi-benefit Cedar River Royal Arch Floodplain Reconnection project.

## II) Public Comment

Noel Gilbrough announced Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group's "Salmon Shindig" event on October 3. Larry Franks announced that Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH) will be holding an elected officials' day on October 1.

## III) Consent Agenda

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the meeting notes for the July 18, 2019 SRC meeting.*

## IV) Updates & Announcements

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK), WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, highlighted the following updates:

- **Snohomish County's status as a WRIA 8 cost share partner** – On September 5, Chair Stokes, Councilmember (CM) Buckshnis, and Jason MK met with Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers for a follow-up discussion regarding the County's status as a cost share partner in 2020. Executive Somers explained that he plans to include a surface water management rate increase as part of his 2020 budget proposal to the County Council for consideration at the end of September, which includes funding for Snohomish County to re-join the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council as a cost share partner. Once Executive Somers' budget is transmitted to the County Council, communications from the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council to Snohomish County Councilmembers to express support for the funding for the County's participation in WRIA 8 will be important. Jason MK will develop key messaging for WRIA 8 representatives. Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Utility Director, confirmed that the proposed budget does include funding for the County to rejoin the WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement.
- **Washington Congressional Representatives Co-Sponsor PUGET SOS Bill** – Washington State Congressmen Denny Heck and Derek Kilmer are co-sponsors on House Bill 2447, the Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound (PUGET SOS) Act. Many partners in Puget Sound recovery, including WRIA 8 and partners, recently signed onto a Puget Sound Partnership letter of support for the bill, prior to review by the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The bill authorizes Puget Sound to receive up to \$50 million per year in federal funds (a significant increase over the current \$28 million funding level), codifies the Puget Sound Federal Task Force to implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda, and establishes a Program Office in the Environmental Protection Agency. WRIA 8 will track the bill's progress moving through committees.
- **Salmon returns update** – Historically, 100% of the sockeye salmon run has passed through the Ballard Locks by this time. Sockeye salmon numbers are the lowest since counting started in 1972: as of September 19, about 17,411 sockeye are estimated to have entered the Lake Washington system. The 10 year average is around 87,561 by this time, so this year the run is just 20% of average. The WRIA 8 team is preparing a sockeye 101 presentation for the November SRC meeting along with a discussion on kokanee. Chinook salmon typically are about 99% through the Locks by this time. As of September 19, around 5,934 Chinook have been estimated to have passed into the Lake Washington system. The 10 year average for Chinook at this time is 7,641 individuals.
- **Salmon SEESon** – The 13th annual Salmon SEESon program is underway, coordinating and promoting salmon viewing opportunities for the public throughout King County watersheds. New sites this year include Flaming Geyser State Park and the new pedestrian bridge over the Duwamish River in Tukwila. WRIA 8 manages the program with sponsorship from the Saving Water Partnership. The program receives additional support from Duwamish Alive, King County, the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed, and the Snoqualmie/Skykomish Watershed. The program is being promoted through press releases, a photo contest, social media, and distribution of posters, brochures, and signs.
- **Annual Kokanee Release Event**- The Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group is hosting an annual ceremonial release of kokanee on October 9 at the Lake Sammamish State Park boat ramp at 5:30pm. This is a good opportunity to learn about the challenges kokanee are facing in the watershed.
- **FISH transition** – Larry Franks announced that the Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH) is in the process of shifting their focus to increase advocacy efforts. Larry thanked WRIA 8 for their support.

## V) Project Subcommittee Recommendations – 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Funding

Jason Wilkinson (Jason W), WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator, overviewed the 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant applicants and Project Subcommittee funding recommendations. Jason W thanked the Project

Subcommittee members for their input and time. SRFB is an annual funding source that comes from a combination of federal and state dollars and focuses on implementing habitat restoration projects through acquisition and restoration. Jason W walked through the available funding amounts and requests. The requests are comprised of a new project, the Royal Arch Reach Floodplain Reconnection Design project, and additional funds needed to fully fund King County's Riverbend project. Riverbend received funding from the state legislature this year, but there was an unexpected funding gap that needs to be filled. The Project Subcommittee recommends fully funding the Royal Arch project and using the rest of the available funding to pitch in to cover Riverbend's gap. Puget Sound Partnership is committed to finding the other \$502,872 needed to fully fund the Riverbend project. Carrie Byron, Puget Sound Partnership, confirmed that they've committed to funding the gap using return funds and other funds. Jason W highlighted the Royal Arch Reach Floodplain Reconnection Design project from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). SPU has been acquiring parcels in this reach for a number of years with the intent of restoring the whole floodplain area. This project removes riprap and floodplain fill, enhances a floodplain side channel, and improves the side channel connection to the river. SPU aims to start construction as early as 2021.

*The Salmon Recovery Council unanimously approved the 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Funding recommendations.*

## **VI) Value of Our Rivers**

Brandon Parsons overviewed American Rivers' study to research the economic impacts of floodplain restoration on property values and community revenue in watersheds across the Puget Sound region. Brandon is seeking feedback from the Salmon Recovery Council to make sure the study would be useful to local governments. American Rivers looked at other examples of economic growth following restoration, including Austin, Tacoma, Pittsburg, Denver, and Bend. There is evidence that access to open space and recreational amenities increases property value but salmon restoration provides unique challenges, the impact of which, is not well understood. This study will be the first in our region to focus on long term community value and economic growth. CM Stuart asked about the goal of the study and if the study would help leverage other funding. Jason MK shared that multiple legislators expressed a need for data on the economic value of doing restoration work. Chair Stokes commented that this study might lead to new development options at Boeing near the mouth of the Cedar River. Brandon added that this study could show that it's a lot more economical to protect our aquatic resources than develop them and then have to restore them later. Bea Covington encouraged American Rivers to stay away from benefit transfer as a methodology, because applying transfers to diverse areas diminishes the effectiveness. CM Hunt suggested including the business community as an audience. Brandon acknowledged that barriers to restoration in WRIA 8 include a lack of adequate funding and available land. CM Buckshnis suggested looking at Portland as another example of revitalization based on their riverfront restoration. The target audience for the study includes local elected officials, local government staff, state legislators, and community members. American Rivers expects the study to be completed by the end of 2020.

## **VII) Monitoring WRIA 8 Salmon Populations – “Fish In/Fish Out”**

Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator, presented on the status of WRIA 8 salmon populations. Lauren explained that there are two Chinook populations in WRIA 8: the Cedar population and the Sammamish population. WRIA 8 uses multiple sources of collected data to monitor these populations, and the sources can be divided into “fish in,” or in-migrating data and “fish out,” or out-migrating data. WDFW and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe collect “fish-in” data from the Ballard Locks between June and October. From September through November, “fish-in” redd and carcass surveys are conducted to collect the number of live fish spawning, the number of carcasses, and the number of redds. Overall numbers are extrapolated from these data. Juvenile screw traps on the Cedar River and Bear Creek provide “fish-out” data from January through July. WRIA 8 can use the trap numbers to calculate the egg to outmigrating juvenile ratio. Jason MK commented that the SRC decided not to support funding on the Bear Creek trap beginning in 2020, hoping the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will start funding those data collection. CM Myers commented that Sound Transit light rail development might impact the trap on Bear Creek. Stewart Reinbold confirmed that WDFW is looking at other locations for the trap. “Fish-out” data is also collected through PIT tag monitoring of parr. The PIT tags are transmitted at the Ballard Locks to track the proportion of outmigrants that make it to the Ballard Locks and are heading out to the ocean.

WRIA 8's goals are based on Viable Salmonid Populations (VSP) metrics. Abundance, productivity, spatial distribution, and diversity all contribute to the metrics. Lauren walked through the most recent Locks count as of September 17, 2019. Chinook are at 80% of the 10 year average. Sockeye are at 15% of the 10 year average. Lauren walked through the Cedar and Sammamish spawning escapement numbers and goals and commented that the Technical Committee is looking into the reasons for low spawner abundance. WRIA 8 goals for natural-origin spawners migrating in to the watershed are 2,000 to 8,000 in the Cedar population and 1,000-4,000 in the Sammamish, consistent with tribal treaty rights and recreational harvest. For Fish-Out, WRIA 8's productivity goal is to increase the egg to migrant survival. WRIA 8's diversity goal is to put more emphasis on parr migrants, as they have a better chance of making it out to the ocean and back to WRIA 8 to spawn. In the Cedar, only 6% of juveniles are leaving the system as parr and the goal is to increase the percentage of parr to 40% by creating more rearing habitat. CM Myers asked about the role of lamprey predation on juvenile survival in the Sammamish River. Lauren will look into that. On Bear Creek, 54% of juveniles are leaving the system as parr. Lauren walked through the PIT tag data and explained that there is a sharp drop in survival in late spring/early summer and the Technical Committee is looking into potential causes. Lauren thanked the partners involved in the data collection.

### **VIII) Success Story: Community Action Training School**

Stephanie Eckard, Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group, presented on the Community Action Training School. The purpose of the school is to bring together people of all backgrounds to learn about the watershed and empower them to become stewards in their communities. Mid-Sound Fisheries collaborated with Sound Salmon Solutions to offer this course for 21 students at no cost, in exchange for 50 community service hours from each student. Students heard presentations from experts on habitat, tribal perspectives, historical and current conditions, water quality, stormwater pollution, and guiding regulations and took field excursions in both King County and Snohomish County. Students are now working on proposals to implement projects to meet their community service hours. Proposed projects include restoration on North Creek, rain garden installations, film and speaker series, and activism to stop proposed development in local wetlands. Stephanie thanked WRIA 8 and other partners. Noel Gilbrough thanked Jeanette Dorner for her leadership and development of programs like this one.

### **IX) Next Meeting**

The next SRC meeting is November 21, 2019, 2:00 – 4:15 pm, at **Mercer Island Community Center**.

## WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Consent Agenda Item November 21, 2019

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### Funding Guidance for the Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program (King County Flood Control District) – *Staff recommends status quo funding guidance*

The King County Flood Control District provides funding to the King County portions of WRIAs 7, 8, 9, and 10 through the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program. Eligible activities include habitat restoration and acquisition projects, monitoring, and outreach and education. For each annual grant cycle, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) is asked to provide funding targets for the three categories of eligible activities.

The SRC-approved targets serve as guidance for the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee as they develop grant funding recommendations. Since the inception of the CWM grant program, the SRC has approved amounts of \$300,000 for monitoring and \$96,000 for outreach and education, with the remainder directed to restoration and acquisition projects. Additionally, the SRC grants flexibility to the Project Subcommittee to deviate from these targets if there is a strong justification for doing so.

No change is proposed to the funding guidance for the 2020 CWM grant cycle. The table below shows 2020 CWM grant allocations by category using status quo funding guidance. Any additional funds identified prior to the Project Subcommittee’s funding meeting in the spring (i.e., returned funds) will be added to the restoration and acquisition category per past practice.

**Table 1: 2020 Proposed CWM Funding Allocation**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Restoration projects and acquisitions (including up to 15% of this amount for riparian-only habitat projects)	\$1,407,815
Monitoring	\$300,000
Education and outreach	\$96,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,803,815</b>

## WRIA 8 Updates and Committee Reports

November 21, 2019

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- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) last met on September 26. The meeting focused on a presentation and discussion of the Funding Subcommittee’s recommendation for an approach to support increased funding for salmon recovery, discussion of the 2021-2023 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital Projects RFP, a presentation from Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission on stream temperature impairment data in Western Washington, and discussion of the content for a letter from the PS SRC to the Orca Task Force to re-emphasize salmon recovery priorities that should be integrated into the Task Force’s year two recommendations. The PS SRC meets next on November 21. Diane Buckshnis, Edmonds City Councilmember, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represent WRIA 8.
- The **South Central Action Area Caucus** (Local Integrating Organization (LIO)) last met on September 25 and November 6. The meetings focused on LIO engagement with EPA and the 2020-2025 regional funding model for National Estuary Funding to Puget Sound Near-Term Actions, selecting a near-term action to allocate the LIO’s \$100,000 in direct funding, and discussing opportunities to coordinate and integrate efforts to reduce shoreline armoring, especially in engaging local governments to support implementation and compliance with Shoreline Master Program regulations. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz currently represents WRIA 8.
- **Snohomish County’s status as a WRIA 8 cost share partner** – Snohomish County Executive, Dave Somers, transmitted his proposed 2020 budget to the County Council on September 24. The Executive’s budget includes funding, as part of a proposed surface water management rate increase, for Snohomish County to re-join the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council as a cost share partner. Several WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members and partners communicated with County Councilmembers to support this funding in the County’s 2020 budget. On October 23, Diane Buckshnis (Edmonds Councilmember), Eric Adman (Sno-King Watershed Council), and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz testified at a County Council public hearing on the 2020 budget in support of the funding for the County to return as a WRIA 8 partner. On November 12, the Snohomish County Council approved the 2020 budget, including funding for the County to return as a WRIA 8 cost share partner. WRIA 8 staff will work with Snohomish County staff and the County Council to determine next steps for them to rejoin the WRIA 8 interlocal agreement and designate a representative to the Salmon Recovery Council.
- **2020 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting Schedule** (*see full schedule in meeting packet*) – In the coming year, the Salmon Recovery Council will continue to meet on the third Thursday of every other month, starting in January, from 2:00-4:15p.m. The first meeting of the year will be on January 16 at the Department of Ecology’s Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue.

- **Recent tours highlighting project implementation** – WRIA 8 convened and/or coordinated with partners on the following recent project-focused tours:
  - Bird Island Shoreline Enhancement – WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members Mark Phillips and Ryan McIrvin joined Hillary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, to tour and celebrate the Bird Island Shoreline Enhancement project in Gene Coulon Park at the southern end of Lake Washington. The southern shores of Lake Washington, near the mouth of the Cedar River, are an important area where the young salmon rest, eat, and grow before moving out through the Ballard Locks and into Puget Sound. Because much of the shoreline on Lake Washington is developed with hard bulkheads, areas of natural shallow shoreline are few and far between. In 2017, the State Department of Natural Resources completed habitat restoration work at Bird Island, which removed over 100 tons of concrete and metal debris from the shoreline, enhanced over 25,500 feet of shoreline, planted over 2,600 native plants and trees, and improved a boardwalk and educational signage to highlight the area’s cultural and environmental importance. WRIA 8 directed Cooperative Watershed Management grant funding to support the project.
  - Ballard Locks Stoney Gate valve and machinery replacement – On October 22, over 25 WRIA 8 partners and Congressional staff from Sen. Cantwell, Rep. Jayapal, and Rep. DelBene's offices toured the dewatered Ballard Locks with the Army Corps of Engineers. Seeing the Locks dewatered is impressive, but what made this tour unique was being able to see the replacement of the 102 year old large lock filling culvert valves, gates, and machinery currently under construction. This was the highest priority project on the Army Corps of Engineers' prioritized list of facility improvement projects they developed in 2012. Replacement of large lock filling culvert valves, gates, and machinery was also the highest priority project for fish passage at the Locks. The improvements will allow the large lock to be filled at variable speeds, reducing the potential for salmon to be sucked into the filling culverts and scraped along the barnacle-encrusted sidewalls. WRIA 8 was part of the coalition of stakeholders who advocated to Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and members of Congress in 2018 to secure a \$13 million appropriation for this work.

The tour also included seeing the real-time replacement of the emergency closure crane and the new smolt slides up close, which have been removed for the season. The Corps emphasized that while it is great the large lock filling culvert valves, gates, and machinery are being replaced, there are several additional unfunded priority facility repairs, including:

- Rehabilitate/replace the large lock gates
- Repair or replace the saltwater drain intake, including temporary fish exclusion structure
- Replace the small lock filling culvert valves and gate machinery
- Replace emergency closure system for the small lock
- Replace saltwater barrier

The Corps has funding to advance designs for these projects, which positions them for construction funding in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. These construction funding needs are priority WRIA 8 federal legislative priorities, with emphasis on repairing or

replacing the saltwater drain intake and fish exclusion structure.

- Cedar River floodplain restoration – On November 5, WRIA 8 convened a tour of Cedar River floodplain restoration projects for State Senator, David Frockt (46th District), and State Representative, Bill Ramos (5th District), to provide an opportunity to see the projects on the ground and learn how the projects achieve multiple objectives, how the projects work together within a watershed-based salmon recovery context to provide necessary habitat, and how the projects advance regional ecosystem restoration goals supporting salmon and Southern Resident Orca. The tour included site visits to the Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project and Rainbow Bend Floodplain Restoration project, and a presentation on Seattle Public Utilities’ Royal Arch Floodplain Reconnection project. Besides the two state legislators, participants included representatives from Congresswoman Schrier’s office, staff from the State Senate Ways and Means Committee, Puget Sound Leadership Council, King County management, Puget Sound Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, and WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Vice Chair, Mark Phillips. Both state legislators were very engaged and seemed impressed with the work, multiple-benefit approach, and how these projects contribute to salmon recovery. Sen. Frockt noted he is interested in possibly featuring these projects in a future Ways and Means Committee study session.
- **Technical Committee comment letter on proposed rule change to eliminate harvest restrictions for non-native predatory fish** (*see letter in meeting packet*) – The WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan identifies predation by predatory fish as a primary limiting factor for salmon recovery. In October, the WRIA 8 Technical Committee submitted a comment letter in support of a WDFW proposed rule to liberalize catch limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish. The rule would eliminate harvest restrictions on these three nonnative warm water piscivores (fish-eating fish) “in all anadromous waters of the state in order to reduce the predation risk to salmon smolts” including Lakes Washington and Sammamish. The proposed rule is an outcome of Substitute House Bill 1579, passed by the Washington Legislature earlier this year in part to implement recommendations from the Governor’s Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force to increase abundance of Chinook salmon, benefiting the endangered Orca population.
- **2020 WRIA 8 Grant Round** – The 2020 WRIA 8 grant round will officially open on December 4. In the 2020 cycle, WRIA 8 will consider proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), and King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grants. Approximately \$3.6 million will be available across the three programs. More information is available on the WRIA 8 funding webpage: <https://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/funding/default.aspx>. Important dates are as follows:
  - Applicant workshop – December 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., King Street Center
  - Notice of intent to apply deadline – January 8
  - SRFB/PSAR application deadline – February 12
  - CWM application deadline – March 12

- **Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee status** – Following the passage of the Streamflow Restoration Act by the state legislature in 2018, the WRIA 8 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (WREC) was created to develop a plan for offsetting potential impacts to instream flows resulting from new permit-exempt domestic wells. The WREC has met monthly throughout 2019, with work primarily focused on growth projections and developing estimates for consumptive use associated with anticipated new permit-exempt wells. Once these estimates are finalized (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020), the WREC will shift focus to identifying projects to include in the plan that will offset projected consumptive use and create a net ecological benefit.
  
- **External Funding Opportunities** – In addition to WRIA 8 grants, several funding sources with a nexus to salmon recovery are either currently accepting proposals or will be accepting proposals in the near future. These include:
  - Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board – Proposals due January 15, 2020
  - Floodplains by Design – Pre-applications due January 31, 2020
  - Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants – Opens February 3 and closes March 31, 2020
  - Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account – Proposals due May 1, 2020
  - Land and Water Conservation Fund – Proposals due May 1, 2020
  - Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Proposals due May 1, 2020

Contact Jason Wilkinson for more information: [jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov), 206-477-4786.

- **E-news** – The October 23 WRIA 8 E-newsletter included information about the tours of the Bird Island Shoreline Enhancement project and the dewatered Ballard Locks, Salmon SEEson, salmon returns, Lake Sammamish Kokanee fry release, King Conservation District’s proposed five-year program of work and funding plan, funding opportunities, and events and news stories. Please send ideas for the December edition of E-news to Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz at [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov) by December 6. E-news distribution now includes over 900 recipients.

### **WRIA 8 Committee Reports**

- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – The Technical Committee met on October 9 and November 13. The October meeting included a discussion of artificial lighting impacts, standards, and recommendations to support salmon recovery. WRIA 8 partners have expressed interest in developing a set of common-sense artificial lighting recommendations. To kick-off this initiative, two leading fisheries scientists, Dave Beauchamp (Western Fisheries Research Center, USGS) and Roger Tabor (USFWS), presented their research demonstrating impacts of artificial lighting on juvenile outmigration and predation rates in the Lake Washington basin. Lauren Urgenson, Technical Coordinator, provided a presentation on artificial lighting basics and existing standards in the watershed. The

Technical Committee discussed information needs and next steps. There was agreement that artificial lighting impacts to juvenile salmon migration and predation rates are an important and often overlooked constraint in salmon recovery. Next steps are for Lauren to synthesize existing scientific information on artificial lighting in WRIA 8 in a “best available science” document. This document will serve to communicate impacts of artificial lighting to our partners. The document will also serve as the basis for a technical memo the Technical Committee will develop describing our artificial lighting recommendations to support salmon recovery.

The November Technical Committee meeting included a presentation by Dr. Peter Lisi, WDFW, synthesizing 20 years of monitoring data using passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags that WDFW inserted into juvenile Chinook at the smolt traps in Bear Creek and the Cedar River. These PIT tagged fish provide insight into juvenile salmon migration timing, potential exit routes through the Ballard Lock system, and relative survival within and among years. The presentation suggested that lower detection rates at the Ballard Locks have a strong environmental association with warmer spring conditions and increased water clarity in the lake. The Technical Committee also reviewed an alternatives analysis for restoration of Laughing Jacobs Creek and identified 2020 monitoring and assessment priorities for the watershed.

In December, the Technical Committee will review a refined scope of work for the Lake Washington Ship Canal (LWSC). In 2018, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council approved allocation of \$27,500 for proposed work focused on temperature and dissolved oxygen issues in the LWSC. The refined scope of work will propose specific chapters for a “state of knowledge” report and tactics to support stakeholder collaboration. Once the Technical Committee evaluates proposed refinements, the Technical Coordinator will submit the plan to the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council for further discussion and approval.

- **WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – The Implementation Committee met on November 5. Meeting topics included general WRIA 8 updates; presentation of a proposal by the King County Mitigation Reserves Program to use a portion of the Rainbow Bend project area to build on existing restoration, presentation on Lake Sammamish Kokanee and the status of emergency recovery actions, discussion and feedback on a draft WRIA 8 communications and outreach strategic framework, and review of agenda topics for the November 21 Salmon Recovery Council meeting. The Committee will continue to develop a WRIA 8 communications and outreach strategic framework to identify objectives, key audiences, and priority actions to coordinate messaging, guide WRIA 8 investments, and inform community partner programs. A final draft strategic framework will be presented to the Salmon Recovery Council for approval in 2020.

## WRIA 8 SRC Meeting Schedule 2020

Salmon Recovery Council	Date and Time	Location
<a href="#">Salmon Recovery Council</a>	Thursday, January 16 2:00 - 4:15 p.m.	Puget Sound Room-1ABC Dept. of Ecology Northwest Regional Office 3190 160 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue
<a href="#">Salmon Recovery Council</a>	Thursday, March 19 2:00 - 4:15 p.m.	Puget Sound Room-1ABC Dept. of Ecology Northwest Regional Office 3190 160 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue
<a href="#">Salmon Recovery Council</a>	Thursday, May 21 2:00 - 4:15 p.m.	Puget Sound Room-1ABC Dept. of Ecology Northwest Regional Office 3190 160 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue
<a href="#">Salmon Recovery Council</a>	Thursday, July 16 2:00 - 4:15 p.m.	Puget Sound Room-1ABC Dept. of Ecology Northwest Regional Office 3190 160 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue
<a href="#">Salmon Recovery Council</a>	Thursday, September 17 2:00 - 4:15 p.m.	Puget Sound Room-1ABC Dept. of Ecology Northwest Regional Office 3190 160 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue
<a href="#">Salmon Recovery Council</a>	Thursday, November 19 2:00 - 4:15 p.m.	Puget Sound Room-1ABC Dept. of Ecology Northwest Regional Office 3190 160 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue

[Map & directions to Ecology's Northwest Regional Office](#)



## Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish (WRIA 8) Watershed

201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

October 17, 2019

Subject: Comments on House Bill 1579 – Proposed Rule Change to Remove Harvest Limits for Bass, Walleye, and Channel Catfish in Anadromous Waters of the State

Dear Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the proposed rule change to eliminate harvest restrictions for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in all anadromous waters of the state. This comment letter is being provided on behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Technical Committee. We are the science body that oversees implementation of the technical components of the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan* (WRIA 8 Plan) and are responsible for recommending habitat goals and recovery actions that will lead to long-term, sustainable Chinook salmon runs in our watershed. The WRIA 8 Plan was approved and ratified in 2005 by elected officials from 28 local governments, was approved by NOAA in 2007 as a component of the *Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan*, and was updated and again approved by local government partners in 2017. Although Chinook salmon are our primary focus, many of our objectives are intended to benefit other salmonids, including sockeye, kokanee, and coho.

The WRIA 8 Plan identifies predation by piscivorous fish as a primary limiting factor for salmon recovery. We applaud the proposed rule change and welcome efforts to reduce the impacts of nonnative warmwater predators in areas with ESA listed and at-risk salmonid populations.

Monitoring studies in WRIA 8 suggest a primary bottleneck to salmon productivity is occurring as juvenile salmonids journey from their natal systems through Lakes Sammamish and Washington and the Lake Washington Ship Canal (LWSC) to the Ballard Locks. For example, PIT tag data from 60,972 juvenile Chinook migrating out the Cedar River and Bear Creek systems over the past 20 years (2000-2019) show an average detection rate of just 17% at the Ballard Locks. Over the past 5 years, the average detection rate has declined to 9 and 11% of juveniles from the Cedar River and Bear Creek, respectively (P. Lisi, personal communication). While not adequately quantified, predation by piscivorous fish appears to be a key constraint on smolt survival.

In critical areas for smolt rearing and migration, human-caused alterations in habitat conditions have benefitted nonnative warmwater piscivores resulting in increased abundance of these predators relative to historical conditions. Given measured trends of increasing water temperatures in the Lake Washington basin (King County 2007), there may be greater predation risk over time with increased fish metabolic demands. Assessments of predation rates in the Lake Washington basin conducted in 1999, 2016, and 2018 suggest smallmouth bass exhibit higher predation rates on salmon than other nonnative piscivorous species averaging 20% (n = 163, Lake Washington, spring) to 50% (n = 508, LWSC, spring-early summer) of the 1999 diet, all of the 2016 diet (n = 3, LWSC), and a quarter of the 2018 diet (n = 45, LWSC) comprised of salmonids. Largemouth bass and yellow perch were also found to consume salmonids, whereas walleye and channel catfish were not tested (Tabor et al. 2007, Tabor and Williams 2019).

Finally, while we support the proposed rule change, we also recognize existing social and scientific uncertainty regarding the magnitude and extent of predation risks, as well as the potential effectiveness of liberalized harvest limits in benefitting Chinook recovery goals. Given the urgency of the salmon conservation challenge, there is an imminent need to implement recovery actions, to learn from implemented actions, and to turn new knowledge into more effective actions. We urge the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement the proposed rule change, and do so within a monitoring and adaptive management framework. Associated monitoring is needed to track whether elimination of harvest limits has a measurable effect on piscivore abundance and size structure during the smolt out-migration period and to determine whether the rule change results in reduced predation risk and improved salmonid smolt survival as hypothesized.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule change. If you have questions about these comments or the implementation of the WRIA 8 Plan, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-477-4780 or [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov).

Sincerely,

*Lauren Urgenson*

Lauren Urgenson  
WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator

Cc: Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager  
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members

**References:**

King County. 2007. Major Lakes Continuous Temperature Study: Interim Progress Report. Prepared by Curtis DeGasperi, Water and Land Resource Division. Seattle, Washington.

Tabor, R. A., B. A. Footen, K. L. Fresh, M. T. Celedonia, F. Mejia, D. L. Low, and L. Park. 2007. Smallmouth bass and largemouth bass predation on juvenile Chinook salmon and other salmonids in the Lake Washington basin. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 27: 1174-1188.

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