



WRIA 8 Updates and Committee Reports

July 15, 2021

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) last met on May 27. The meeting focused on:
 - Presentation from North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission on ocean conditions and fish responses
 - Presentation from Long Live the Kings on the findings from the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project
 - Status of the update to the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan
 - Update on the 2022-2026 Action Agenda development and feedback on recovery strategies
 - Affirming outcomes from the March retreat and discussing next steps
 - Legislative session review and debrief

The PS SRC is scheduled to meet next on July 29. Diane Buckshnis, Edmonds City Councilmember, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represent WRIA 8.

The **South Central Action Area Caucus** (Local Integrating Organization (LIO)) met on June 4. Meeting topics included regional Puget Sound recovery updates, lessons learned and next steps from the regional Stormwater Summit hosted by King County and connections with other regional stormwater management efforts. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represents WRIA 8 on the LIO.

- **Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen roundtable process** – On June 3 and July 7, WRIA 8 and Long Live the Kings convened a Lake Washington Ship Canal Salmon Roundtable to establish common goals and objectives and identify possible feasible solutions to address elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen conditions that are impacting the migration and survival of salmon in WRIA 8. Outcomes of these initial meetings will guide a series of workshops to vet action alternatives.
- **PUGET SOS bill passes U.S. House of Representatives** – In mid-June, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound (PUGET SOS) Act of 2021. This legislation, introduced by Rep. Derek Kilmer and Rep. Marilyn Strickland, would strengthen the federal government's role and support in Puget Sound recovery. Specifically, the Act would establish a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office in the Environmental Protection Agency to better coordinate Puget Sound protection and restoration efforts and would authorize \$50 million annually for five years to advance coordination of recovery and implementation of priority actions. The PUGET SOS Act will next be considered by the Senate. This proposed legislation is a key component of WRIA 8 federal legislative priorities.

- **WRIA 8 E-News** – The June edition of the WRIA 8 E-news included the following topics and updates: Cedar River asphalt plant; King County culvert hunters eliminating fish barriers; Electron Hydro, LLC fined \$501,000 for placing tire pollutant in the Puyallup River; beavers combatting climate change; changing the Co-management of lands approach with Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and state agencies; highlighting WRIA 8 local government projects; and funding and conference announcements. The next edition is scheduled for release in August. Please submit topics by Monday, August 16, to Carla Nelson (carnelson@kingcounty.gov).

WRIA 8 Committee Reports

WRIA 8 SRC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee meeting – The June and July Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee meetings focused on final edits to the WRIA 8 DEI Strategic Plan, use of the Strategic Plan Action Framework to focus next steps, preparation for the 2022 grant round, and agreement on a timeline for subcommittee actions over the next year. Anyone interested in joining the WRIA 8 DEI Subcommittee should contact Carla Nelson (carnelson@kingcounty.gov).

WRIA 8 Technical Committee – [LU] The WRIA 8 Technical Committee met in July. The Technical Committee focused on review of a King County conceptual model for critical factors in recovery of natural origin Chinook in Bear Creek and the Cedar River developed as part of King County Wastewater Treatment and Water and Land Resources Divisions' Water Quality Benefits Evaluation (WQBE). The purpose of the WQBE is to place water quality improvement, e.g., pollutant load reduction, in context of ecological and human health outcomes for a number of priority outcomes including edible fish, swimming beaches, shellfish beds, Southern Resident killer whales, and Chinook salmon. Goals of the Chinook model is to identify how water quality improvements, such as toxicant load reduction, will impact juvenile and adult natural origin Chinook salmon survivorship. These impacts will be considered relative to existing habitat strategies in the WRIA 8 Plan and factors identified in the new and emerging science.

WRIA 8 Implementation Committee – The Implementation Committee met on July 6. Meeting topics included general WRIA 8 updates and review of the July 15 Salmon Recovery Council meeting topics, but the bulk of the meeting was devoted to discussing riparian restoration and stewardship in the Cedar River basin, including presentations on the current work of several partners. The Committee discussed what's working well, gaps that should be addressed, potential adjustments to strategy and approach to existing efforts, and opportunities for future collaboration. The Implementation Committee plans to have a series of meetings focused on discussions of habitat acquisition and restoration strategies for each of WRIA 8's four Tier 1 stream basins (Cedar River, Sammamish River, Issaquah Creek, and Bear Creek).