



# WRIA 8 Updates and Committee Reports

January 20, 2022

---

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC)** last met on November 18. The meeting focused on:
  - Selecting Chair and Vice Chair positions. David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe Natural resources Director, was reappointed as Chair, and Dave Herrera, Skokomish Tribe, and Mindy Roberts, Washington Environmental Council, were selected as co-Vice Chairs.
  - Discussion with new Recreation and Conservation Office Director, Megan Duffy.
  - Status of the Regional Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan update process.
  - WRIA 8 presentation on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Plan.
  - 2021 work plan review and 2022 priorities.
  - Legacy Projects Portfolio – list development and next steps (project list includes critical Ballard Locks infrastructure repairs and solutions to address Ship Canal water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen).
  - Approval of 2023-2025 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant program large capital project RFP.

The PS SRC is scheduled to meet next on January 27. Diane Buckshnis, Edmonds City Councilmember, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represent WRIA 8.

The **South Central Action Area Caucus** (Local Integrating Organization (LIO)) is reviewing the draft high-level actions for the 2022-2026 Action Agenda, the plan guiding Puget Sound recovery. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represents WRIA 8 on the LIO.

- **WRIA 8 Staffing update – Welcome Carrie Byron!** – The WRIA 8 staff team is very excited to welcome Carrie Byron as the new WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator. Carrie will be coordinating the WRIA 8 grant rounds, working with project sponsors on project planning and development, and representing WRIA 8 in several regional and state salmon recovery forums. Carrie brings extensive experience in salmon recovery, Puget Sound restoration, and grant program management. She most recently worked at the Puget Sound Partnership where she managed the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant program, which focuses on funding priority salmon habitat protection and restoration projects. She has also worked in various roles at the State Department of Ecology and US Environmental Protection Agency focusing on Puget Sound recovery. Contact Carrie at: [cbyron@kingcounty.gov](mailto:cbyron@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-7078.
- **2022 WRIA 8 Grant Round** – The 2022 WRIA 8 grant round opened on January 4. In the 2022 funding 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 \$5.3 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:

- Notice of intent to apply deadline (SRFB) – February 1
- Notice of intent to apply deadline (CWM) – February 9
- SRFB application deadline – February 23
- CWM application deadline – March 23

• **Salmon returns –**

Locks Counts June 12- October 2:

Species	2021 Count	Percent of 10-Year Average
Chinook	14,231	178%
Sockeye	38,618	53%
Coho	30,679	196%

2021 Salmon Escapement Estimates:

	Total Escapement (Adult spawners)	Percent of 10-Year Average
Cedar Chinook	963 (73% Natural Origin Spawners)	84%
Sammamish Chinook	>2000	~ 200%
Cedar Sockeye	21,500 *	~ 50%

- **Status of the WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Addendum to add City of Everett as a cost share partner** – The City of Everett is seeking to join the WRIA 8 ILA as a cost share partner. To approve adding the City of Everett as an ILA partner an ILA addendum was sent to all existing partners for signature in early November. To date, 22 of 28 partners have signed the addendum and the remaining six partners are actively working the request through their signature process. Assuming all partners sign, a fully executed addendum is anticipated in February.
- **Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen roundtable process** – WRIA 8 and Long Live the Kings (LLTK) continue to convene partners in the Lake Washington Ship Canal Salmon Roundtable process to establish common goals and objectives and

identify alternatives to address elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen conditions that are impacting the migration and survival of salmon. At a December workshop, participants reviewed proposed alternatives to address the issues and brainstormed additional alternatives for consideration. WRIA 8 and LLTK are following up with technical experts to fill information gaps and do some initial prioritization of alternatives based on information from the workshop, which will be presented to the Technical Work Group and Steering and Strategy Work group for review. The top-ranking priorities emerging from these discussions will be shared by early spring and will be advanced for additional feasibility study.

- **WRIA 8 E-News** – The December edition of the WRIA 8 E-news included the following topics and updates: Tribal-led estuary restoration efforts, article on the impact of plastic pellet “nurdles” on marine life, Governor’s announcement of proposed package of salmon recovery investments and update to State Salmon Strategy, Sen. Cantwell visit to the Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration project, Holder Creek restoration project, release of coho salmon in Coal Creek, Edmonds students work to support salmon runs in local creeks, and several funding opportunities. The next edition is scheduled for February. Please submit topics to Carla Nelson ([carnelson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:carnelson@kingcounty.gov)).

## **WRIA 8 Committee Reports**

**WRIA 8 SRC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee meeting** – The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee continues to focus on implementation of actions outlined in the Strategic Plan Action Framework. Strategies include revising grant round materials based on our strengthened DEI emphasis last year, incorporating DEI principals into WRIA 8 communications and outreach, and strengthening connections with community-based organizations with a focus on environmental equity. To gather those connections and gain feedback on how best to apply DEI in WRIA 8 communities, we have created [a brief survey](#). Please take a moment to provide your thoughts and possible contacts within your jurisdiction, or organization. Anyone interested in joining the WRIA 8 DEI Subcommittee should contact Carla Nelson ([carnelson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:carnelson@kingcounty.gov)).

**WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – The WRIA 8 Technical Committee met January 12. The meeting included a presentation from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on 2021 salmon escapement estimates for the basin, review and discussion of 2022 legislative session salmon-related budget proposals and legislation, discussion of 2022 committee meeting topics and feedback on committee meeting structure and processes, and updates from watershed partners.

**WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – The Implementation Committee met on January 11. Meeting topics included review of the 2022 WRIA 8 grant round and other funding opportunities, review and discussion of 2022 legislative session salmon-related budget proposals and legislation, review and feedback on draft Salmon Recovery Council letter to state legislators sharing WRIA 8 state priorities, update on Lake Sammamish kokanee recovery efforts, and review of the January 20 Salmon Recovery Council meeting topics.