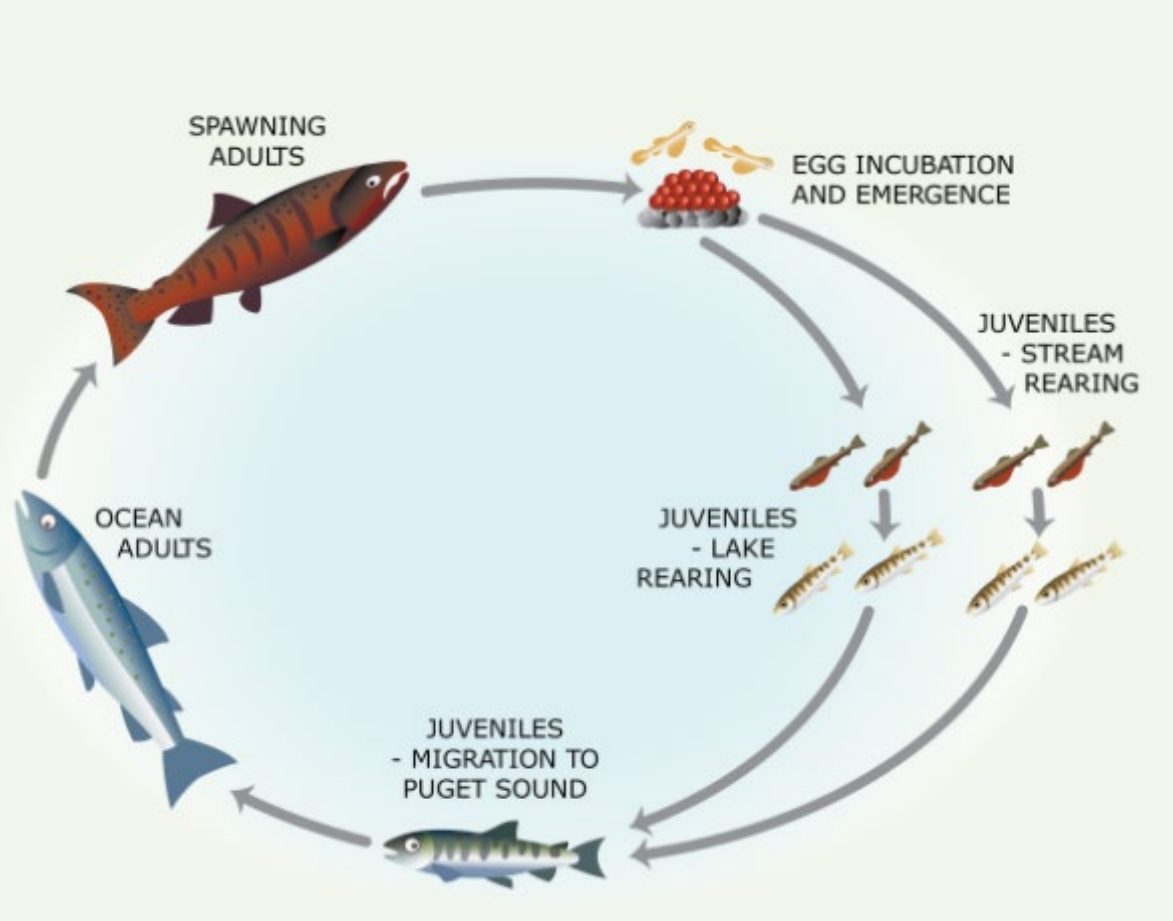
WRIA 8 Progress Report Highlights

Progress Report Overview

- First progress report since WRIA 8 Plan update (2017)
- “StoryMap” format – online storytelling
- Status of goals and recovery strategies
- Identifies challenges and future direction

WRIA 8 Fish Goals



Fish Goals – Juvenile Summary

	2025 Goal	Current Status
Juvenile Productivity: Egg-to-Migrant Survival		
Cedar population	> 13.8%	18.3%
Bear Creek (proxy for Sammamish population)	> 4.4%	6.9%

	2025 Goal	Current Status
Juvenile Diversity: Instream Rearing		
Cedar population	Increase number and proportion of parr (late season) juveniles	Parr per adult female appears to be decreasing, but average over last five years has remained similar
Bear Creek (proxy for Sammamish population)	Improve Sammamish River habitat rearing conditions to support eventual parr rearing	Parr per adult female in Bear Creek is increasing
	Convert one satellite subarea to core (Tier 1): expand spawning area distribution	Spawning continues to be variable across the watershed. Creation of a fish passage facility at Landsburg Dam on the Cedar River in 2003 and removal of the Issaquah Hatchery Intake Dam in 2013 has increased opportunities for spawning in the upper reaches of these systems

Fish Goals – Adult Summary

	2025 Goal	Current Status
Adult Abundance: Number of Adult Spawners		
Cedar population	1,680 (with 80% natural origin spawners)	Average since 2005 = 1,204 (77% natural origin spawners) 
Sammamish population	1,083 (maintain or increase % natural origin spawners and achieve 350 natural origin spawners)	Average since 2005 = 1,200 (151 or 13% natural origin spawners) 

	2025 Goal	Current Status
Adult Productivity: Returns per Spawner		
Cedar population	Average > 2 returns per spawner 2-4 years out of 10	Exceeded > 2 returns per spawner once and reached a population growth rate of > 1 three years out of 10 
Sammamish population	Average > 1 returns per spawner with > 2 returns per spawner in 2-4 years out of 10	Did not increase > 1 return per spawner during any of the past 10 years 

Habitat Goals – Key Recovery Strategies

- Protect and restore floodplain connectivity
- Protect and restore functional riparian vegetation
- Restore shallow-water rearing and refuge habitat
- Reconnect and enhance creek mouths entering the lake
- Protect and restore cold water sources and reduce thermal barriers to migration

Rainbow Bend – Cedar River

Bird Island restoration – Lake Washington

Mapes Creek – along Lake Washington

Habitat Goals – Cedar River and Sammamish River Summary

Baseline data

	2025 Goal	Baseline Status	Baseline Year
Cedar River			
Acres of connected and restored river floodplain	1,170 acres	1,040 acres	2015
Increase reach average wood volume in the river	42 m^3/100m	34.2 m^3/ 100m	2018
Sammamish River			
Increase percentage of riparian tree cover	10% increase over baseline conditions (39% or 214.5 acres)	29% (195 acres)	2017
Create thermal refugia	Add two refugia	0	2015

Habitat Goals – Streams and Lakes Summary

Baseline data

Priority Streams (Tier 1 and Tier 2)			
Increase percentage of riparian tree cover	10% increase over baseline conditions	Varies by stream (see Progress Report)	2017
Increase wood volume in streams	Double wood volume over baseline conditions	Varies by stream (see Progress Report)	2018 (2019 for Issaquah)
Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish			
Lake Washington – Restore natural lake shoreline	Double baseline conditions for length of natural lake shoreline south of I-90 (56% or 16.8 miles)	28% (8.4 miles)	2017
Lake Sammamish – Restore natural lake shoreline	Maintain or increase from baseline conditions for length of natural lake shoreline	65% (12.9 miles)	2017
Marine Nearshore			
Reconnect coastal stream mouth pocket estuaries	Reconnect two pocket estuaries	0 (Note two pocket estuary projects are in design)	2015

What have we learned?

Juvenile survival issues are key:

- Elevated water temperatures and dissolved oxygen in the Lake Washington Ship Canal
- Impacts of artificial nighttime lighting
- Predation on juvenile salmon in Ship Canal, Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish

Lake Washington Ship Canal

Juvenile salmon are attracted to artificial light, leaving them vulnerable to predation by larger fish.

Yellow perch preying on juvenile salmon

Looking Ahead

- Further align restoration investments with priority recovery strategies
- Continue convening partners to fill knowledge gaps and advocate for management actions
- Adapt recovery strategies and actions to anticipated changing conditions from climate change, population growth, and shifting community demographics
- Work with local governments to improve integration of salmon recovery priorities into land use planning
- Integrate and advance equity and inclusion in our salmon recovery work
- Promote programs and activities that raise awareness about salmon and recovery efforts and create behavior change to improve conditions for salmon