

# Washington State Puget Sound Partnership



**Brian Lynn**

**Coastal/Shorelands Section Manager  
Washington Department of Ecology**

**August 2006**

# Puget Sound Partnership



- Governor Chris Gregoire launched an initiative in December 2005 to revitalize efforts to protect Puget Sound – “one of the state’s crown jewels”.
- She enlisted some of the region’s leading citizens to form a new public/private group called the Puget Sound Partnership.
- The Goal — develop an aggressive 15-year plan to solve Puget Sound’s most vexing problems.

# The Partners



## Co-Chairs

- Governor Chris Gregoire (Jay Manning, Department of Ecology, alternate)
- Billy Frank, Jr., Chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board

## Other Partners

- Sam Anderson, *Master Builders Association of King/Snohomish Counties*
- Bill Baarsma, *City of Tacoma*
- Jim Darling, *Port of Bellingham*
- Norm Dicks, *Congressman -Sixth Congressional District of Washington*
- Mark Emmert, *University of Washington*
- Kathy Fletcher, *People for Puget Sound*
- Ron Kreizenbeck, *Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10*
- Patty Lent, *Kitsap County Commission*
- Joan McGilton, *City of Burien*
- Colin Moseley, *Green Diamond Resource Company & Simpson Timber*
- Mike Shelby, *Western Washington Agricultural Association*
- Ron Sims, *King County Executive*
- Doug Sutherland, *Washington Department of Natural Resources*
- Bill Taylor, *Taylor Shellfish Farms*
- Sherry Appleton, *Washington State Representative*
- Luke Esser, *Washington State Senator*
- Fred Jarrett, *Washington State Representative*
- Phil Rockefeller, *Washington State Senator*

# Puget Sound – the Setting



- Puget Sound is deep, with an average depth of 450 feet.
- More than 10,000 streams and rivers drain into Puget Sound . Nearly 85 percent of the basin's annual surface water runoff comes from 10 rivers
- 2,500 miles of shoreline -- a mosaic of beaches, bluffs, deltas, mudflats and wetlands
- Population expected to grow by 1.4 million over next 15 years.

# The Problem



## Puget Sound facing significant challenges

### Water pollution and contaminated sediments

- More than 5,700 acres of aquatic land exceed contamination levels
- In 2005, the 77 remaining southern Puget Sound Orcas were listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

### Declines in populations of salmon, orcas, marine birds and rockfish

- Five species of Puget Sound salmon are listed as needing protection under the Endangered Species Act.
- Marine bird populations in the Puget Sound region have declined by nearly half since the 1970s. Some species have declined by as much as 90 percent during the past 30 years.

# The Problem



## Loss of habitat

- Approximately 70 percent of Puget Sound near-shore estuary habitat (the land near the mouths of rivers) has been converted to residential, commercial and industrial use.

## Closures of shellfish beds

- Nearly 20 percent – or about 30,000 acres – of commercial shellfish beds have closed to harvest since 1980.

## Dead zone in Hood Canal

# The Charge



The Governor charged the Partnership with five tasks and asked for initial recommendations by spring 2006 and final recommendations by fall 2006.

1. **2020 AGENDA** — Recommend a set of key actions to recover the Sound by 2020.
2. **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**— Engage citizens, governments, the business and conservation communities, and others in ramping up efforts to recover the Sound.
3. **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE** — Recommend the best organizational structures and approaches to steward the Sound back to health and protect it over time.
4. **FUNDING** — Review funding sources for protecting and restoring the Sound and set spending priorities to achieve the desired outcomes by 2020.
5. **SCIENCE** — Recommend how broad-based scientific knowledge should be organized and applied in order to inform policies and assist in setting/meeting goals.

# Status



- Interim Report Completed in Spring – very general
- Final Report due in November - a lot of work to do.
- Working with GAO to learn about successes/failures from other large-scale watershed/estuary initiatives (Everglades, Chesapeake, Great Lakes)
- Attempting to meld with current efforts to restore salmon in Puget Sound



# What will report recommend?

- Stay Tuned

# What can SIMOR do?

- Stay Tuned

# Washington State Ocean Policy Initiative



**Brian Lynn**

**Coastal/Shorelands Section Manager  
Washington Department of Ecology**

**August 2006**

# Background



- Created by State Budget Proviso (2005-2007 biennium)
  - By December 31, 2005, the governor's office shall identify the recommendations of the U.S. commission on ocean policy appropriate for immediate implementation.
  - By December 31, 2006, the governor's office shall provide a report:
    - Summarizing the condition of the state's ocean resources and their contribution to the state's character, quality of life, and economic viability;
    - recommending improvements in coordination among state agencies and other jurisdictions;
    - recommending measures to protect and manage ocean resources;
    - recommending measures to finance ocean protection, management, and development programs; and
    - recommending legislation regarding ocean resources or policy.



# Ocean Policy Work Group

- Full work group has met roughly once a month since Fall, 2005.
- Membership:
  - Kathleen Drew, Governor's Office, Chair
  - Membership consists of:
    - State Agencies: DOE, DFW, DNR, CTED, Parks, Health, DOT, PSAT
    - Legislative Members
    - Tribal Representatives (as Observers)
    - Local Government and Port Associations
    - Additional Contributions from Public & Private Experts
  - Research support from UW Graduate Students

# Public Outreach Program



- Public Meetings May – June, 2006
- Meetings in:
  - Port Angeles & Forks
  - Ocean Shores
  - Ilwaco & Westport
  - Friday Harbor
  - Olympia

# Policy Focus



Five broad policy issues will be addressed in the final report.

## □ Marine Resource Stewardship

- Sustainable Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Ecosystem-based Management
- Ocean Energy
- Ocean Pollution: Oil Spills & Marine Debris

# Policy Focus



## Coastal Vulnerabilities

- Climate Change
- Coastal Hazard Preparedness
- Erosion and Sediment Management

## Ocean Observation, Research and Education



# Policy Focus

## ☐ Sustainable and Resilient Communities

- Economic Development

## ☐ Governance

- Filling the gaps in ocean/coastal management in WA
- Links with other initiatives
- Evaluation of various models

# Regional Sediment Management



- Increase Washington State's involvement and investment in Regional Sediment Management (Governor's Office, State Coastal Zone Management Program). Funding. Staffing.
- Work with the state of Oregon through the Lower Columbia Solutions Group. Use this as the vehicle for promoting a RSM effort in the Columbia.
- Invest in the science.
  - Dedicated state funding for sediment and erosion monitoring and analysis.
  - Coordinated state/federal effort. Enhanced federal support.

# Can SIMOR help?



- Provide federal leadership on addressing policy limitations/obstacles for effective Regional Sediment Management.
- Create nimble, ad hoc, federal agency SWAT teams to support the creation of RSM efforts.
- Invest in the science. Need enhanced federal support for a coordinated state/federal research and monitoring effort.

# OPWG Homepage



[http://courses.washington.edu/  
oceangov/OPWG.html](http://courses.washington.edu/oceangov/OPWG.html)

Brian Lynn

[blyn461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:blyn461@ecy.wa.gov)

Jennifer Hennessey

[jhen461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jhen461@ecy.wa.gov)



PS – Don't forget funding







# Governance Questions

- What are advantages of a locally-driven approach to ocean and coastal management?
- Are the outer coasts appropriate for an Marine Resource Committee-type approach?
- How can the state best collaborate with local government to pursue state and local policy goals? What individuals, local groups, and/or stakeholders are most appropriate for this collaboration?

# Potential Governance Models for Washington State



Model	Form	Benefits
<b>"MRCs" for Outer Coast</b>	County Appointed MRCs; Potential Outer Coast Coordinating Comm.	Strong local stakeholder and gov't involvement in marine resource issues; Emulation of successful NWSC MRC model.
<b>State Ocean Council</b>	Enhanced Coordination of State Agencies with Local Gov't and Stakeholder Involvement	More direct access to decision-makers in state gov't; Improved interaction w/ Fed agencies, tribes, and adjacent states; facilitates research and technical assistance.
<b>Ocean Information &amp; Technical Center</b>	Interagency / University Service Center for Ocean Issues	Clearinghouse for research expertise, increased connections between managers, academia, local stakeholders, NGOs; better connections to Federal technical researchers.
<b>Ocean Policy Forum</b>	Ongoing Meetings with Public & Private Coastal Stakeholders	Regular mechanism for input on most relevant issues; review status of coastal areas and assess future needs.
<b>Ocean Policy Advisor to Governor</b>	Governor's Representative on Ocean Issues	Increased awareness of ocean issues for Governor; closer link to State OFM/Budgeting.
<b>Problem-response Task Force</b>	Self-organizing (depending on problem) response facilitated by state gov't (ex: ORHAB, LCSG)	Response tailored to specific problem with clear urgency and greater access to funding; program with clear end-date.