



APPLYING
SCIENCE AND
INFORMATION TO
SUSTAINABILITY
IN A SHARED
TRANSBOUNDARY
ECOSYSTEM

Conference Contacts:

Environment Canada -
Pacific and Yukon Region
David Fraser
(604) 713-9529
david.fraser@ec.gc.ca

Puget Sound Water Quality
Action Team
Peter Dowty
(360) 407-7561
pdowty@psat.wa.gov



WORKING TOGETHER
FOR THE
GEORGIA BASIN

AU TRAVAIL
POUR LE
BASSIN DE GEORGIA

PUGET SOUND
ACTION TEAM



2003 GEORGIA BASIN/PUGET SOUND

RESEARCH CONFERENCE

WHAT: An international research conference focusing on Puget Sound/Georgia Basin transboundary ecosystem issues and integrating the efforts of scientists and decision-makers.

WHERE: Westin Bayshore Hotel
1601 Bayshore Drive, Vancouver, British Columbia

WHEN: Monday, March 31—Thursday, April 3, 2003

WHO: Scientists from government agencies, universities, Tribes, First Nations and consulting firms; natural resource managers and decision-makers; students and the public.

The Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team (Action Team), the partner agencies of the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative (GBEI), and co-sponsors in Canada and the United States are working together to develop a top-quality conference to communicate research findings of importance to help ensure the sustainability of the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound ecosystem.

This conference will build upon the successes of five previous Puget Sound research conferences and the significant transboundary work underway in the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound ecosystem. The Puget Sound Research Conference has been the Action Team's largest and most visible effort to communicate research results among the region's scientists and natural resource managers.

In 2003, the GBEI will present scientific information from its first five years of activity. This international conference will set the stage for future collaboration in the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound ecosystem.

This conference will provide the Puget Sound and Georgia Basin community of scientists and natural resource managers with the opportunities and value they have come to expect from Puget Sound research conferences. At the same time, it will enhance Canadian participation in the conference and expand the technical program to include additional aspects of ecosystem research, including atmospheric interactions with the land and water.

Conference themes include:

- Sharing science and solutions around ecosystem health issues facing the transboundary Georgia Basin / Puget Sound region.
- Applying science in support of decision-making, capacity-building, and effective dialogue across disciplines and community interests.

**PUGET SOUND WATER
QUALITY ACTION TEAM**

The Action Team works with federal, state, tribal and local governments, citizens and businesses in the Puget Sound region of Washington state to develop and carry out two-year work plans that guide protection of water quality and biological resources. The biennial work plans are based on the *Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan*, the state of Washington's long-term strategy for protecting and restoring Puget Sound. As specified in these plans, the Action Team coordinates environmental monitoring and research for the region.

**GEORGIA BASIN
ECOSYSTEM INITIATIVE**

Canadian federal and provincial partners launched the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative in 1998 as a five-year action plan to address some of the key environmental issues in the basin, including taking action on air and water pollution and protecting and conserving habitats and species. The initiative partners include three federal departments—Environment Canada; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; and Parks Canada—and three provincial ministries—Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management; and Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services. GBEI is working at the local and community level to develop new and better practices to support actions that mitigate the impacts of human activities and support the achievement of healthy, productive and sustainable ecosystems and communities.

THE GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE ARE TO:

- Provide a venue for the latest, leading-edge marine research and scientific exchange.
- Recognize and support integrated, ecosystem-based research and decision-making.
- Enhance dialogue among scientists, decision-makers and the public.
- Support First Nation and Tribal partnerships in the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound ecosystem.
- Report on key programs (e.g., Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program, Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative, Oceans Act implementation, etc.).
- Facilitate linkages among universities in the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin region.
- Learn from experiences in other transboundary regions.
- Celebrate success and guide future directions.

Action Team and Environment Canada co-chairs are convening an advisory committee to help design the conference's technical program. Registration materials will be available in the fall.

To obtain the Call for Abstracts and additional information about the conference, visit the Action Team's website at www.wa.gov/puget_sound or contact the conference organizers:

- **Action Team:** (800) 54-SOUND (from Washington State only) or (360) 407-7300 or e-mail Pete Dowty at pdowty@psat.wa.gov
- **Environment Canada:** (604) 713-9529 or e-mail David Fraser at david.fraser@ec.gc.ca

CO-SPONSORSHIP

The 2003 Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Research Conference will be made possible by the generous support of co-sponsors and the registration fees paid by attendees. Funding from co-sponsors is essential to keep registration fees to a reasonable level. In 2001, 39 co-sponsors provided approximately \$130,000, which covered more than 60 percent of the costs of the 2001 research conference.

If you are interested in providing co-sponsorship support for the **2003 Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Research Conference**, please contact:

- *In the U.S.:* **Harriet Beale**, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, (800) 54-SOUND (from Washington State only) or (360) 407-7300 or email hbeale@psat.wa.gov
- *In Canada:* **Greg Ambrozic**, Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative Coordination Office, (604) 713-9532 or greg.ambrozic@ec.gc.ca

THE 2001 PUGET SOUND RESEARCH CONFERENCE

In February 2001, the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team and 34 co-sponsors (including government agencies and private companies) brought together 800 people at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington for the most recent Puget Sound Research Conference.

Attendees included scientists from government agencies, universities and consulting firms; resource managers; other decision-makers; students and members of the public.

Participants learned from nearly 200 technical papers on an array of topics. In addition, special presentations on challenges in ecosystem science that face the region addressed the influence of climate and ocean variability, global threats confronting oceans and coastal ecosystems, and communication and the use of science.

Proceedings from the 2001 research conference have been published and are available on the Action Team's website: www.wa.gov/puget_sound.



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If you need these materials in an alternative format,
call the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team TDD number (800) 833-6388.