



Hundreds of researchers converge and converse about Georgia Basin and Puget Sound

Approximately 800 Canadian and U.S. scientists, natural resource managers and policy experts gathered in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in April 2003 to share, learn and exchange the latest information and direction on environmental issues facing the shared Georgia Basin-Puget Sound ecosystem.

The individuals at the **2003 Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Research Conference** represented government, businesses, learning and research institutions, environmental organizations and communities.

The conference is a forum for both scientists and policy-makers to recognize and celebrate successes and progress and guide future directions.

The four-day conference included 49 sessions of scientific presentations, seven expert panels, four associated workshops and more than 60 technical posters. Topics addressed all aspects of the ecosystem: marine biological research; climate change; air quality; contaminants in orcas, fish and sediments; agricultural and urban land use practices; transboundary indicators, marine protected areas, waste management and much more.

"A significant goal of the conference was to define and respond to the challenges facing the ecological sustainability of the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound region," said **Scott Redman, science manager with the Puget**



Environment Canada photo
Conference participants exchange news and information on the latest research.

Sound Action Team, a co-host of the conference.

By the end of the session, three hundred people had given presentations. From nationally and internationally recognized scientists to students from the region's universities and colleges, conference participants heard about, learned about and asked about the vast challenges and hopes for the Georgia Basin and Puget Sound region.

"Presenters made their points with knowledge, emotion and conviction. They presented new understandings about the transboundary ecosystem and the need for future research, policy advice and commitments from both government and non-government organizations," Redman said.

The 2003 Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Research Conference demonstrated that although much has been done to stem toxic pollution, contain urban growth, and protect and restore ecosystems in the region, many environmental health and ecosystem function issues remain, and researchers continue to identify and describe new threats.

Many researchers said that more needs to be done to minimize the ongoing harm and loss of important species. Several researchers also called for a greater emphasis to protect, recover and restore the natural qualities of the regional ecosystem in order to secure a sustainable future.

The conference was the sixth research conference the Puget Sound Action Team in Washington state has sponsored, and the first research conference the Action Team has co-sponsored with the **Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative (GBEI)**. The GBEI is a collaboration of Canadian government departments, including Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada and British Columbia provincial Ministries of Water, Land and Air Protection, Sustainable Resources Management and Community, Aboriginal and Womens Services.

In late Summer 2003, people may review the full proceedings from the Research Conference at <http://www.psat.wa.gov/>.

2003 GEORGIA BASIN/PUGET SOUND RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Keynote speeches highlight cross-border issues

Thought provoking, despairing and inspiring are just a few of the words to describe the excellent keynote speakers who engaged, intrigued and challenged the hundreds of people who participated in the 2003 Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Research Conference.

The keynote speakers at the Research Conference included **Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, former executive director of the United Nations Environment Program and is now the president and chief executive officer of Canada's Nuclear Waste Management organization; **Billy Frank, Jr.**, instrumental in peacefully settling fishing conflicts throughout the Pacific Northwest and the chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; **Stephen Hume**, a visiting lecturer in journalism at the University of Victoria and a senior writer and columnist with **The Vancouver Sun**; and **Carl Safina**, president of the Blue Ocean Institute, winner of a MacArthur 'genius' award and an author of more than 100 ocean fish publications.

Following are highlights from two of the conference speakers.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell on science, technology and globalization

Dowdeswell emphasized her knowledge and experience of science and technology and its constant emergence in our changing world. With poignant statistics about two-thirds of the world's population falling far short of having



Photo courtesy of Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Billy Frank, Jr. was a keynote speaker at the 2003 research conference.

a decent quality of life, Dowdeswell pointed to the fact that the Earth's human population continues to grow, and at the same time, we continue dumping of toxic contaminants into our air, water and land.

Dowdeswell noted that 10 years ago world leaders embraced the concept of sustainable development. Yet today we are still asking: "Why is action on the sustainable development agenda so elusive? Why are countries and companies not living up to what they have promised? Why is there a gap between policy and action?"

According to Dowdeswell a lack of understanding of the real nature of sustainability may be one of the reasons for the lack of progress for sustainability.

She challenged the scientists and managers at the conference to take on the

challenges of alleviating poverty, reversing environmental harm and shaping globalization.

"With your commitment and energy a sustainable planet is not an unreachable goal," said Dowdeswell.

Billy Frank, Jr. on getting and keeping science in decisions

"Mother nature is in balance," Frank said. "It is just us that's out of balance."

Frank spoke about how salmon have sustained and been the spirit to his people.

"We can't live without that salmon life that lives through our body and flows through our blood," Frank said.

He praised and thanked the scientists at the research conference for their important and valuable contributions. He encouraged them to be present and involved in all forums.

For years the power of bringing the different people and voices of the Pacific Northwest together, to give energy and solutions to salmon and fishing issues, has been central to making some progress.

"Salmon don't vote," remarked Frank. "Tribes won't stand by and let people destroy our natural resources."

Frank encouraged the scientists at the conference to listen, talk and write their reports "the right way."

"This is a good time to be living. This is a great time to be alive," concluded Frank. "Every one of you can make a difference."

Help your community to a piece of PIE

Do you have an innovative idea for a project that encourages people to take action to protect and restore Puget Sound? Submit a proposal for PIE funding!

The Puget Sound Action Team will release a **Request for Proposals (RFP)** for the Public Involvement and Education fund (PIE) in August 2003.

During the previous 13 rounds of funding, more than 290 projects initiated by local communities and totaling more than \$5 million reached millions of people. The legacy of this program is a better-

informed and more involved public, which leads to enhanced stewardship of Puget Sound.

The PIE fund supports projects aimed at protecting and improving Puget Sound's water quality and marine resources by awarding funding to local communities to involve and educate their neighbors. Any Washington state resident, business, organization, tribal or local government, school or educator may apply.

Up to \$45,000 per project may be requested. The application deadline for

this round is October 2003. Watch for the Request for Proposals and the Action Team's Web site for the specific application deadline.

We have streamlined the application process to make it easier to apply. Download the RFP or find out more information about the PIE fund and past projects at the Action Team's Web site (www.psat.wa.gov). Or call (360) 407-7300 or (800) 54-SOUND to request a printed copy of the RFP or find out more about the PIE program.

► ISLAND COUNTY

Middle school and college students, teachers, state and local resource managers and the community of **Penn Cove** benefited from **Langley Middle School's** Spartina Eradication and Education Project. This past spring, two dozen students studying



Action Team photo

Eva Denka, a 7th grader in the Langley Middle School Adventure Education class, examines spartina through a microscope.

spartina, an invasive aquatic weed, hosted a community spartina dig and developed a Web site, brochures and public service announcements. They shared this work at a conference at the Cornet Bay Environmental Learning Center on **Whidbey Island** in May. The project is a model for integrating a broad variety of subjects into practical, real-world situations that benefit students, the community and Puget Sound. Project sponsors included the **Camano-Stanwood School District, South Whidbey School District, Island County Noxious Weed Control Board, Service-Education-Adventure, Washington Department of Agriculture and Washington Sea Grant.** Contact **Susie Richards** at (360) 221-5100 or srichards@sw.wednet.edu.

► MASON COUNTY

The Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials has selected **Kim Lincoln and the Mason County Environmental Health Program** for its 2002 award for "excellence in public health." The award recognizes work that contributes to better public health and specifically calls

out the county's "innovative, comprehensive and crucial" efforts to find and correct pollution problems in watersheds draining to valuable shellfish growing areas. This work includes: a new strategy to respond quickly to emerging pollution problems in threatened shellfish areas; dye-trace assessments of the **North Bay** wastewater treatment plant to identify potential, undetected sewage discharges; other water quality studies in areas draining to **Oakland Bay, Annas Bay and lower Hood Canal** to identify and control bacterial pollution sources; and collaboration with the Mason Conservation District to institute a permanent, local funding program to support protection and conservation of water resources. Contact **Kim Lincoln**, (360) 427-9670 ext. 544, or lincolk@co.mason.wa.us.

► SKAGIT COUNTY

A series of catchy public service announcements touting the financial and water quality benefits of on-site septic system maintenance is now reaching 19,000 Skagit County households. The **Skagit County Health Department**, in partnership with **Taylor Shellfish, Skagit Conservation District** and the **Puget Sound Action Team**, produced the announcements, which will be broadcast on 11 different networks through December 2003. Announcements will appear on a range of Comcast cable channels, from the Discovery and Learning channels to CNN, ESPN and the Food Network. Nearly 500,000 homes and businesses in the Puget Sound region use on-site sewage systems. The rate of failure for sewage systems can be high—up to 60 percent in some areas. Systems that fail can threaten public health and harm water quality and pollute valuable shellfish beds. In the 1990s, failures of on-site septic systems caused the restriction or closure of many shellfish growing areas in Puget Sound. Contact **Steve Olsen**, Skagit County Health Department, (360) 336-9380.

► KING COUNTY

King County recently passed new legislation promoting both environmental protection and affordable housing. The Low Impact

Development/Built Green Ordinance authorizes three experimental developments featuring innovative practices to manage stormwater, in combination with affordable, environmentally friendly housing. The ordinance authorizes the following projects:

- **Hope VI Park Lake Homes, located in White Center.** This mixed-income housing development will provide single-family and multi-family housing. The new ordinance allows the King County Housing Authority to develop environmentally friendly solutions that will provide an ecologically sustainable future for the White Center Park Lake Homes community.
- **Camwest's Shamrock development, located east of Renton.** This development will create approximately 100 single-family housing units.
- **Vashon Household's Sunflower development on Vashon Island** provides for 14 single-family homes.

Contact **Cynthia Moffitt**, King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, (206) 296-7095 or Cynthia.Moffitt@metrokc.gov.

► KITSAP COUNTY

Every day, some 15,000 dogs in **Kitsap County** produce more than 11,000 pounds of waste. That's a lot of poop to negotiate around while strolling down the lane! Dog waste that is not properly disposed of can also be easily picked up by stormwater and washed into nearby streams, rivers and marine waters, potentially contaminating our shellfish beds with harmful bacteria. Recognizing that education is the key to tackling this problem, the **Kitsap Stormwater Consortium**, which includes representatives from county and city government, Kitsap Health and Conservation Districts, U.S. Navy, and the Action Team, is mounting a campaign to inform dog owners on how to properly dispose of their pet's waste. A new poster and brochure will be the primary educational tools for display and distribution at pet walks, pet shows, veterinarian offices and local Humane Society offices. Contact **Pat Kirschbaum** at (360) 337-7290 or pkirschbaum@co.kitsap.wa.us.

Puget Sound Action Team Local Liaisons:

Island County:
Harriet Beale
(360) 407-7307

Thurston and Mason counties:
Stuart Glasoe
(360) 407-7319

Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties:
Hilary Culverwell
(206) 721-4377

San Juan County:
Position vacant
(360) 407-7300

Clallam, Kitsap and Jefferson counties:
John Cambalik
(360) 582-9132

Pierce and King counties:
Kathy Taylor
(253) 333-4920

2003 GEORGIA BASIN/PUGET SOUND RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Scientists report pollution a major threat to orcas

Killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) or orca, are majestic and charismatic representatives of Puget Sound.

Recent efforts by many environmental groups and individuals have alerted us to the dramatic decline in the southern resident killer whales—those fish-eating orcas that spend their summers around the San Juan islands. Scientists have identified many causes for this decline, including pollution from toxic chemicals, decreases in the populations of fish the whales eat, disturbances by boats and underwater noises, and the delayed effects of the captures of orcas for public display that happened decades ago.

Toxic pollution—a cause for decline

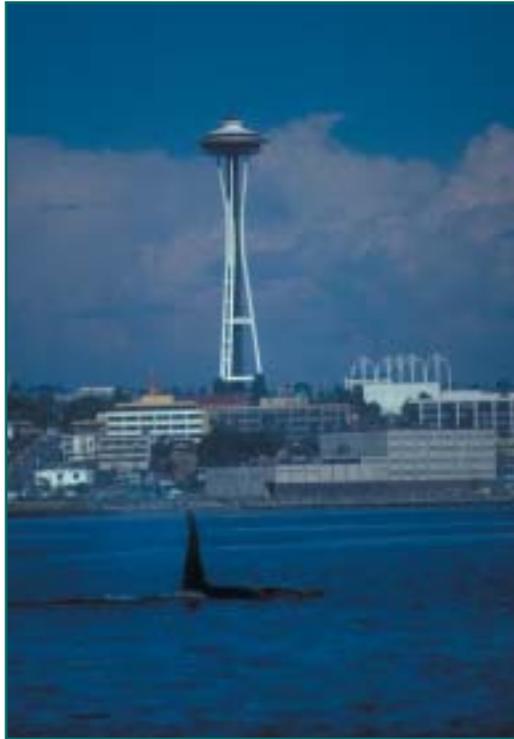
This spring, scientists at the 2003 Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Research Conference presented their latest work on toxic pollution.

Donna Cullon, a doctoral candidate at the **University of Victoria** who also works at the **Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney, B.C.**, presented a study comparing the levels of toxic chemicals in harbor seals with the lev-

Toxic contaminants in sediments in urban areas appear to be a continuing source of pollution through the food web to orcas.

els in the mix of fish they eat. She was able to match differences in the levels in the prey with the differences in harbor seals sampled at locations in the Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound.

Sandra O'Neill and **James West** of the **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** reported on some of their extensive work on toxic chemicals in fish in Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia. Levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in English sole are



Center for Whale Research photo

Scientists report that toxics from contaminated sediments in urban bays and harbors are one reason for the decline in orca populations.

higher around the toxic sediment hot spots in urban areas such as Elliott Bay.

Pacific herring from central Puget Sound have higher concentrations of PCBs than do other herring stocks.

Among the salmon, the highest levels of PCBs in coho were in fish returning to central Puget Sound, compared to north or south basins.

From fish to mammals

Laurie Wilson and **John Elliott** of the **Canadian Wildlife Service** presented several papers on toxic contamination in wildlife that feed in marine areas in British Columbia. They found high levels of PCBs in otters living in **Victoria Harbour**. And surf scoters (birds that feed principally on mollusks) that spend the winters in urban harbors showed higher exposures to toxic chemicals than those from clean reference areas.

Scientists looking at the rearing of juvenile salmon along marine shorelines in **King County** and **Sinclair Inlet**

found that salmon born in rivers and streams as far away as the **Fraser River** and **Vancouver Island** use the central Puget Sound nearshore areas. Unfortunately, this behavior exposes fish from cleaner areas, such as the **Dungeness River**, to the higher levels of pollution found in the Puget Sound urban bays.

What does this mean for orcas? The accumulated toxic contaminants in sediments in urban areas appear to be a continuing source of pollution through the food web to orcas. When orcas visit the urban areas of central Puget Sound, as they did this last winter, they increase their exposure to these persistent chemicals.

Although toxic pollution is only one factor contributing to the decline in the Southern Resident Killer Whales, many scientists at the research conference concluded that it is clear that more needs to be done to clean up contaminated sediments and ensure that orcas have adequate supplies of healthy prey.

ORCA LISTING UPDATE:

Southern Resident Killer Whales 'depleted'

On May 29, 2003, the NOAA Fisheries designated the Southern Resident Killer Whales (*Orcinus orca* or orca) as **depleted** under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The depleted designation raises the level of protection provided to southern residents under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and triggers the development of a recovery plan. In a separate but coordinated step, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has launched the process to consider listing the orca as endangered under the authority of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.

2003 GEORGIA BASIN/PUGET SOUND RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Climate change brings new challenges, concerns to region

Researchers shared information about observed and predicted changes in the region's climate and the effects these changes might have on Pacific Northwest ecosystems at the 2003 Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Research Conference.

Warmer and wetter

Predicted regional warming of 1 to 2.5 degrees Celsius (approximately 2 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit) during the next half century may reduce annual snowpack in the coastal mountains by 70 percent. By reviewing data for the 20th century, researchers have shown that decreases in the water content of snowpack are already evident in this region and so are changes in our climate.

"Global warming is not merely a distant possibility, it is already happening," said **Phillip Mote of the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group**.

In addition to warmer temperatures, climate models predict 15 to 20 percent increases in winter precipitation in this region.



The amount of winter snowpack on Mt. Rainier (pictured above) and other mountains in the Cascades and Olympics has a direct effect on the marine ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest.

Puget Sound rivers with headwaters that reach high into the Cascade and Olympic mountains have a seasonal streamflow pattern dominated by snowpacks melting through the spring and summer. If predictions play out, the combination of warmer temperatures and increased winter precipitation mean that some of these rivers will transition

from systems dominated by snow melt to systems dominated by rain. Scientists from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have concluded that these predictions indicate a higher likelihood of wintertime flooding and reduced runoff and soil moisture in the summer.

Lessons from the drought

The Pacific Northwest drought of 2000 may have been a preview of some of the changes in marine water conditions that might occur as climate change results in less summer runoff. Scientists monitoring the Strait of Juan de Fuca in 2000 found higher-than-normal density waters at the Strait's surface.

The growth of plankton and the distribution of larval organisms in the marine waters of this region depend on a delicate balance between the stability of the layers of the water column and the influx and mixing of nutrient-rich waters into Puget Sound. Smaller snowpacks and resulting lower levels of summer-time freshwater

See *CLIMATE CHANGE*, page 6

Urban diet of octopus proves unhealthy

Recent studies by **Roland Anderson** and his team of scientists brings a new understanding about the giant Pacific octopus and the effects of an urban diet on its growth and lifespan.

Anderson, a scientist at the **Seattle Aquarium**, shared the results of his team's findings about the planet's largest octopuses at the 2003 Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Research Conference.

They are what they eat

The Seattle Aquarium has been raising and exhibiting giant Pacific octopuses (*Enteroctopus dofleini*) for 26 years. Until 1999, aquarium staff fed commercial seafood to their octopuses. Then, they installed a new, larger tank, which was easier to clean, and added locally caught red rock crabs to the octopuses' menu.



Photo courtesy of Seattle Aquarium
Giant Pacific octopus (*Enteroctopus dofleini*).

With the larger tank, the aquarium staff expected the octopuses to grow bigger and live longer than those living in the older, smaller tank. Curiously, the opposite happened. The octopuses raised in the new tank and with the new diet grew to a smaller adult size than earlier specimens. After checking the

quality of water in the tank, Anderson and his colleagues turned their attention to the octopuses' food.

Working with scientists from **King County's Environmental Laboratory**, Anderson's team discovered that the red rock crabs, gathered from the Seattle waterfront, were contaminated with cadmium, copper and PCBs. These same toxic contaminants showed up in the aquarium's octopus specimens.

"The pollutants that octopuses ingested from eating crabs may be a factor leading to maturity at a smaller size, and earlier aging and death," Anderson said. "Those octopuses that were fed live crabs matured at a smaller size than those not fed crabs at the Seattle Aquarium."

Anderson's work adds to the growing research of the effects of the

See *OCTOPUS*, page 6

National Estuary Day 2003 Estuary Live!

To celebrate **National Estuary Day**, the Puget Sound Action Team will bring Puget Sound to thousands of students in late September. Middle, junior high and high school students will have the opportunity to explore estuaries around the nation through an Internet-based webcast September 25 and 26, 2003.

The Puget Sound webcast will feature a site being restored in the heavily industrialized **Duwamish River** reaches in **Seattle**. The webcast will show and tell how in the midst of cargo containers, factories and miles of concrete, nature is making a comeback with a little help from **People for Puget Sound** and other local groups.

The webcast will describe the transitions the river has undergone through time as it has changed from a natural to a developed landscape, and it will explore the resurrection of this valuable ecosystem for salmon, wildlife and for people. Students will have the opportunity for a live email interaction, question-and-answer session with the tour guides on the field trip.

For more information on how to participate in this virtual field trip, visit www.estuarylive.org or contact **Mary Knackstedt**, with the Puget Sound Action Team at (360) 407-7336, mknackstedt@psat.wa.gov.

National estuary conference coming to Seattle

Seattle will be the host city for this year's **Estuarine Research Federation (ERF) Conference**, taking place September 14-18 at the **Washington State Convention and Trade Center**.

The theme is **Estuaries on the Edge: Convergence of Ocean, Land and Culture**. The purpose of the conference is to promote communication about research and management of estuaries and coastal areas, especially the convergence of ocean forces, influences of activities on land and activities people do that may harm estuaries.

The Estuarine Research Federation is a multidisciplinary organization of academic researchers, public sector managers, teachers, consultants and others. Many organizations, including the Puget Sound Action Team, are helping to sponsor the conference.

For more information about the conference, visit the **ERF Web site** at <http://fish.washington.edu/news/erf/>.

Streambank guidelines available

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has completed its **Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines (ISPG)**. The guidelines are on Fish and Wildlife's Web site. You may also purchase hard copies by calling (360) 902-2534.

ISPG contains information on topics such as mechanisms and causes of streambank failure, project and environmental risk, mitigation, and site and reach based assessments. ISPG provides guidance in selecting suitable solutions for streambank protection.

For information on the **Aquatic Habitat Guidelines program** and to view the new guidelines, visit <http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/hab/ahg/>.



Reminder...Action Team has new web address

The Puget Sound Action Team's Web site address has changed. You'll find us at **www.psat.wa.gov**. Until April 30, 2004, our previous Web site address of www.wa.gov/puget_sound will continue to route you to our site.

If you have questions regarding this change, please contact **Jill Williams**, (360) 407-7313, jwilliams@psat.wa.gov.

~ www.psat.wa.gov ~

2003 GEORGIA BASIN/ PUGET SOUND

RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Climate Change

Continued from page 5

inflow into Puget Sound may shift this balance as higher-density surface waters weaken the boundaries between layers and alter circulation patterns.

"At this point we don't have a clear picture of how changes in Puget Sound circulation might affect the marine food web," said **Scott Redman of the Puget Sound Action Team**. "We expect that warmer, wetter winters and reduced snowmelt runoff in summer will change the timing and patterns of plankton growth and the food resources available to fish and marine birds and mammals. And, this is a concern."

HOW TO GET A COPY OF THE 2003 PROCEEDINGS

If you did not attend the **2003 Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Research Conference** and would like a copy of the proceedings, they will be available by the end of summer on the Puget Sound Action Team's Web site. (Go to www.psat.wa.gov and select the link to the 2003 Proceedings.) You may also order a copy on CD-ROM for \$15. Call (360) 407-7311 or e-mail: gwilliams@psat.wa.gov.

Proceedings of the climate change sessions will be published in a separate journal this fall. For information on how to get a copy, check the Action Team's Web site at www.pugetsound.wa.gov for updated information.

Octopus

Continued from page 5

accumulation of toxic chemicals on Puget Sound marine life. See, for example, the **2002 Puget Sound Update** at http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/update_02/update_02.htm for information about contamination in fish, including herring, salmon, rockfish and English sole, as well as marine mammals, such as harbor seals and orcas.

Northwest cleanup project receives national award



An employee of Ballard Diving and Salvage removes an abandoned fishing net from Puget Sound.

Local efforts to remove derelict fishing gear from Puget Sound captured national attention earlier this summer. Coastal America announced it will honor the **Northwest Straits Commission and its partners** with the **2003 Coastal America Partnership Award**.

In 2002, the commission designed and led a team of 14 state, tribal and federal partners, including the Puget Sound Action Team, in a pilot project that yielded 11 tons of recovered crab pots and purse seine nets, and more than a mile of gill nets from Puget Sound. The goal of the project is to remove lost and abandoned gear, to help restore Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits, to improve public safety, and to assist species recovery.

Coastal America is a partnership of federal agencies, state and local governments, and private organizations working together to protect, preserve and restore our nation's coasts. To be eligible for the award, a project must include a federal agency partner and non-federal entities.

In July, the Northwest Straits Foundation learned that the derelict gear removal project will expand through at least 2004, thanks to a grant from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Session ends with some good news for Puget Sound's health

In a session dominated by budget concerns, legislators passed several bills that will support Puget Sound's health. Newly enacted laws strengthen efforts to eliminate toxic wastes, prevent oil spills, protect shorelines and put watershed plans into action. In addition, budgets fared well for the Puget Sound Action Team and its partners committed to actions outlined in the **2003-05 Puget Sound Water Quality Work Plan**.

Toxic wastes—House bill 1002 put a new focus on mercury, a persistent bioaccumulative toxin that heads the **Department of Ecology's** list of some 20 such chemicals with discharges that need to be reduced. The bill requires putting labels on some lamps, prohibiting the sale of certain products containing mercury, and providing \$100,000 to support actions by the departments of Ecology and Health to reduce the use of products with mercury, and mandates preference for purchase of mercury-free products by the Department of General Administration.

Preventing oil spills—Negotiations on funding for the rescue tug stationed at Neah Bay and related efforts to prevent oil spills continued throughout the session. Passed on the final day of the regular session, senate bill 6072 created a new funding mechanism that will assure state support to operate the tug during the winter months through 2007. In the meantime, efforts continue to obtain federal assistance.

Shorelines protection—New legislation ensures that local governments will update their shoreline master programs in follow-up to a negotiated settlement of issues surrounding the Department of Ecology's revised guidelines for shorelines protection. Senate bill 6012 set timelines to update local shoreline plans and ties it to state funding, and it gives direction to the Department of Ecology regarding future updates of

the guidelines. House bill 1933 clarified how goals, policies and master programs developed under the Shoreline Management Act are to be integrated with comprehensive plans and development regulations established under the Growth Management Act.

Watershed management—Several bills reinforce the state's commitment to solving water quality and quantity problems through action within local watersheds. House bill 1095 targeted removal of barriers to fish passage by authorizing cost-sharing assistance for owners of small forest lands. House bill 1418 creates a mechanism for restoring intertidal habitat for salmon with a focus on Skagit County. House bill 1336 defined a process and provided a means to fund projects proposed in local watershed plans.

Budgets for Puget Sound Action Team staff and partner agencies—The capital and operating budget bills, senate bill 5401 and senate bill 5404 respectively, earmarked funding for the Action Team and its partner agencies to protect Puget Sound. Funding continues at levels equal to, or only modestly lower than, the 2001-2003 biennium that ended June 30, 2003. The legislature appropriated \$27.8 million from state and federal funding sources for the 2003-2005 biennium for the Puget Sound Action Team agencies and staff to carry out the work in the **Puget Sound Water Quality Work Plan**. This is a decrease in funding levels from the \$29.6 million appropriated in the 2001-2003 biennium. The departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources received enhancements to benefit studies supporting the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program.

For more information about the 2002-2003 session, contact **Terry Hull**, legislative liaison with the Action Team at (360) 407-6314 or thull@psat.wa.gov.

Sound Waves is produced quarterly by the Puget Sound Action Team. If you would like this document in an alternate format, call:

Olympia area: (360) 407-7300 • Toll free: (800) 54-SOUND • TDD number: (800) 833-6388

Editor/Designer: **Toni Weyman Droscher** (tdroscher@psat.wa.gov)

Editorial Assistant: **Stephanie Lidren** • Distribution: **Gigi Williams** (gwilliams@psat.wa.gov)

Sound Waves is run on an alcohol-free press using vegetable-based inks.


Puget Sound Action Team
P.O. Box 40900
Olympia, WA 98504-0900



Puget Sound Action Team
P.O. Box 40900
Olympia, WA 98504-0900

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WASHINGTON STATE
DEPT OF PRINTING

Return Service Requested

Get current with water quality issues—electronically!

- ▶ Join the **Puget Sound Water Quality INFORMATION Listserv** to get and keep current on events, updates, timely information and Sound Waves.
http://www.psat.wa.gov/Site_index/listserv.htm
- ▶ Join the **Puget Sound Water Quality NEWS Listserv** for news releases issued Soundwide.
http://www.psat.wa.gov/Site_index/listserv_news.htm

The Puget Sound Action Team is a partnership of state agencies and tribal and local governments charged with developing and coordinating conservation programs to protect and restore Puget Sound. An advisory council, the Puget Sound Council, with representation from business, agriculture, the shellfish industry, environmental organizations, local and tribal governments and the legislature provides advice and guidance to help steer the Action Team. The Action Team staff, a program of the Governor's Office, provides the necessary professional and technical services to ensure the Action Team's success. Staff guides the implementation of the *Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan*.

ACTION TEAM MEMBERS

Chair: Brad Ack, Puget Sound Action Team

City Councils

Joan McGilton, *Burien*

Conservation Commission

Mark Clark, *Executive Director*

County Councils

Dan McShane, *Whatcom*

Department of Agriculture

Valoria Loveland, *Director*

Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development

Martha Choe, *Director*

Department of Ecology

Tom Fitzsimmons, *Director*

Department of Fish & Wildlife

Jeffrey Koenings, *Director*

Department of Health

Mary Selecky, *Secretary*

Department of Natural Resources

Francea McNair, *Aquatics Steward*

Department of Transportation

Doug MacDonald, *Secretary*

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation

Laura Johnson, *Director*



NOAA Fisheries

Bob Lohn, *Regional Administrator*

State Parks & Recreation Commission

Rex Derr, *Director*

Tribes

Daryl Williams, *Director*
Dept. of the Environment, Tulalip Tribes

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ron Kreizenbeck, *Deputy Regional Administrator*

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ken Berg, *Manager*

PUGET SOUND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chair: Brad Ack, Puget Sound Action Team

Agriculture

Jerry Van der Veen, *Van der Veen Dairy*

Business

vacant

City Councils

Jackie Aitchison, *Poulsbo*

County Councils

Rhea Miller, *San Juan*

Environmental Community

Tom Putnam, *Puget Soundkeeper Alliance*

Shellfish Industry

Bill Dewey, *Taylor Shellfish Co., Inc.*

State Senate

Tracey Eide (*D-Federal Way*)

Pam Roach (*R-Auburn*)

State House of Representatives

Phil Rockefeller (*D-Kitsap*)

Mark Schoesler (*R-Ritzville*)

Tribes

Fran Wilshusen, *Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission*