

Why Salmon Habitat?



Most people are aware that Chinook salmon are listed as endangered in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. Here in Kitsap, we may not have the major river systems that usually support Chinook, but they and other species do use our rich nearshore environment to feed and grow. Making sure it is healthy requires looking at a variety of factors that range from aquatic plants that are used for refuge and food supply, to the way the sediments and wood are moving along the shoreline.

By making sure the habitat is healthy for salmon, we ensure that it is good for many other forms of life, including ourselves!

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Official Web page:

www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/nr/nearshore/default.htm

West Kitsap

Hood Canal

Nearshore

Assessment

Completing the Picture:

Shoreline Data Collection Along

Kitsap's Hood Canal



What Is It?

The Kitsap County Department of Community Development is conducting a **baseline inventory of the West Kitsap nearshore environment** (Hood Canal).

We have divided up the 66 miles of shoreline based on reaches that were established by Washington Department of Natural Resources in 2001 (ShoreZone). These reaches can then be analyzed and given individual scores based on the data and will be **used to identify and prioritize restoration and conservation opportunities that would best benefit the Hood Canal.**



Manchester



Silverdale



Liberty Bay

Impact?

The baseline inventory information from this assessment follows a previous baseline study done last year (2007) for East Kitsap shorelines. By combining both studies, we will be able to paint a better picture of Kitsap County's shoreline.



This study also fits in with the broader, state-wide effort of the Puget Sound Partnership. By doing this base-line assessment, we will be contributing to a better understanding of this unique ecosystem, which in turn allows us to decide where federal, state and local funding would be best used to benefit Puget Sound and the Hood Canal.

When and Where?

Data Collection will begin in Summer 2008. Some of the work will be done by boat. Much of it will be walked. The study will cover the Hood Canal from Foulweather Bluff, south to the Kitsap-Mason County line. GPS units and digital cameras will be used to collect reach-related data and nothing is directly linked to personal property.

Data

*Not all these will be collected in the field, but are available from other studies and sources. Much of our collection is focused on **noting** structures and physical landscape types.*

Biological: aquatic plants, terrestrial cover, forage fish, sensitive species and habitats.

Structures: armoring, outfalls, over-water structures, fill, pilings, roads, ramps, stairways.

Physical: Drift Cells, sediment sources, topography, slope, wave exposure, high bluff/low bank.

GPS : Trimble



Study Shoreline: Foulweather Bluff to Kitsap-Mason Line