

Freshwater Ecosystems

Stream aggradations resulting from the December 2007 flood event, especially in the lower stream segments, is a major issue in the Hood Canal watershed. Many smaller streams which are vital to the collective salmon populations have lost the capacity to function. There needs to be a programmatic plan to address this large scale issue, but it needs to be recognized within the priorities of the science plan.

Marine and Nearshore Ecosystems

It will important to continue investigating means for minimizing the stress on sealife due to the annual hypoxic conditions which develop in lower Hood Canal. Much of the current effort in reducing nitrogen is centered on the anthropogenic input, which is appropriate given the finding from the HCDOP. In addition to current corrective actions, more emphasis needs to be placed on re-establishing a more native and natural the food web dynamics.

Monitoring

The Bennial Science Workplan puts an emphasis on monitoring, yet the planning process has not applied enough recognition on existing monitoring plans. Nutrient loading related to hypoxic conditions in Hood Canal are not listed as key threats to Hood Canal.

The current marine water monitoring in Hood Canal using the ORCA buoys and monthly citizen monitoring needs to be continued. The marine monitoring on Hood Canal also supports the evaluation of corrective actions in determining the amount of human related nitrogen removal needed to meet the EPA dissolved oxygen drawdown target as well as to verify progress toward the target.