

**Proposed Process and Schedule for the Development of Puget Sound Monitoring Program
For Leadership Council Discussion
April 29-30**

Purpose:

- Describe and obtain Council feedback on Partnership approach to developing a monitoring program
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Overview

The initial Science Work Plan (Plan), that is currently being developed, will cover a two-year period between 2009 and 2011. The Plan will include a system for collecting, analyzing, and managing information; reporting results; and will provide information that will provide the base from which decisions about programs and strategies can be made. A central component of the Science Work Plan will be the Puget Sound Monitoring Program (Monitoring Program).

The Monitoring Program will include:

- An assessment of the current state, or baseline, of key ecosystem indicators;
- A framework for comparison of the current status relative to the baseline and established benchmarks and targets to determine if progress is being made; and
- An evaluation of the effects of management measures.

Findings from the Monitoring Program will be included in the State of the Sound Report, which the Partnership is required to produce by November 2009, and then every other year thereafter. They will also be included in the Puget Sound Science Update. The first edition of that report is due in April 2010 and updated on an as-needed basis.

The Monitoring Program will incorporate the work produced by other science programs and activities such as the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (e.g., indicators, risk analysis, and modeling) led by NOAA, the Chinook recovery monitoring and adaptive management program and the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program.

Process

The following process will be used to develop the Monitoring Program.

1. Use Action Agenda's topic forums and cross-topic synthesis process to identify policy questions and strategies that will define the focus of monitoring efforts. (Present to Leadership Council for discussion in June);
2. Build from a NOAA-led project, which is describing currently available indicators, to select a small subset of indicators that can be used for reporting and tracking progress (Present to the Leadership Council for discussion in June and July);

3. Identify benchmarks and targets for each reporting-level indicator (Present to the Leadership Council for discussion in July);
4. Review on-going monitoring studies to identify opportunities for building the Monitoring Program from existing efforts;
5. Develop an adaptive management process to ensure that monitoring results inform Partnership efforts to adjust management actions when necessary (Present to the Leadership Council for discussion in July); and
6. Develop approaches for collecting and analyzing information to develop and report on indicators and for conducting high priority studies of the effects of management actions (Present to the Leadership Council in September).

It is anticipated that the Monitoring Program will be fully reviewed and ready to adopt by the Leadership Council in September.