

Leadership Council Resolution 2011-06 Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for swimming beaches

WHEREAS, RCW 90.71.310(1)(c) states that “The action agenda shall include near-term and long-term benchmarks designed to ensure continuous progress needed to reach the goals, objectives, and designated outcomes by 2020;” and

WHEREAS, RCW 90.71.280(3), “the [leadership] council shall confer with the [science] panel on incorporating ... benchmarks into the action agenda;” and

WHEREAS, the Partnership has applied the term “targets” to refer to long-term benchmarks designed to ensure progress to designated outcomes by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the science-policy workshop convened as part of the Science Panel meeting on December 14, 2010 recommended that the Partnership adopt ecosystem recovery targets to address the full breadth of the Partnership’s interests in a recovered ecosystem as part of the 2011 revisions to the action agenda; and

WHEREAS, water quality at swimming beaches that protects human health is one indicator that “a healthy human population [is] supported by a healthy Puget Sound ...” (RCW 90.71.300(1)(a)); and

WHEREAS, water quality at swimming beaches that protects human health is one indicator that “... waters and sediments [are] of sufficient quality so that waters in the region are safe for drinking, swimming, shellfish harvest and consumption, and other human uses and enjoyment ...” (RCW 90.71.300(1)(f)); and

WHEREAS, conditions at swimming beaches as measured by the departments of Ecology and Health BEACH program, which monitors 50 to 70 marine swimming beaches in Puget Sound, has been adopted as one of the Partnership’s Dashboard indicators of ecosystem condition; and

WHEREAS, technical experts from the Department of Ecology have presented analyses to the Partnership about potential ecosystem recovery targets for swimming beaches; and

WHEREAS, the Science Panel provided a review of technical materials developed in support of target setting; and

WHEREAS, the Ecosystem Coordination Board has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets, based on the background information presented in advance of their May 24 and 25, 2011 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the public and stakeholders were provided an opportunity to weigh in on the options provided; and

WHEREAS, a summary of information from these analysis, review, and engagement processes included in the meeting materials for the June 16 and 17, 2011 meeting of the Leadership Council provide sufficient background for adoption of ecosystem recovery targets consistent with the Partnership's guiding principles for target setting

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Partnership defines a functioning, resilient ecosystem to include:

Water quality at swimming beaches that protects human health

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Partnership's ecosystem recovery target for swimming beaches shall be expressed as:

By 2020, all monitored Puget Sound beaches meet enterococcus standard

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Partnership will work collaboratively with the steering committee of the coordinated ecosystem monitoring and assessment program to develop a robust system of monitoring and indicators to protect recreational uses of surface waters at swimming beaches and other locations where contact recreation (e.g., SCUBA diving, wind surfing, kayaking) occur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that reevaluation of the target adopted by this resolution will be triggered at the direction of the Partnership's Science Panel based on their evaluation of scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures, especially the development of improved or additional indicators of water quality conditions that support swimming and other recreational uses of marine and fresh waters.

Resolution Moved By: Diana Gale

Resolution Seconded By: Dan O'Neal

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

DATE: June 16, 2011