

## Leadership Council Resolution 2011-11 Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for toxics in fish

**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**, toxics in fish provides a key indication that “fresh and marine waters and sediments [are] of a sufficient quality so that the waters in the region are safe for drinking, swimming, shellfish harvest and consumption, and other human uses and enjoyment, and are not harmful to the native marine mammals, fish, birds, and shellfish of the region” (RCW 90.71.300(1)(f)); and

**WHEREAS**, toxics in fish provides a key indication that “freshwater, estuary, nearshore, marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and sustained” (RCW 90.71.300(d)); and

**WHEREAS**, toxics in fish provides a key indication that “a healthy human population [is] supported by a healthy Puget Sound ...” (RCW 90.71.300(a)); and

**WHEREAS**, toxics in fish as monitored by the Department of Fish and Wildlife has been adopted as one of the Partnership’s Dashboard indicators of ecosystem condition; and

**WHEREAS**, technical experts from the Department of Fish and Wildlife have presented analyses to the Partnership about potential ecosystem recovery targets for toxics in fish; 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:

Fish populations not harmed by toxic contaminants and fish safe for consumption by predators and humans.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership's 2020 recovery target for toxics in fish shall be expressed as:

By 2020, toxics in fish are below threshold levels. Target is achieved if each of the following conditions is observed in monitoring results from 2019 or 2020:

- a. Bioaccumulative toxics – 95% of samples meet the following thresholds:
  - i. Concentrations of PCBs and PBDEs in Puget Sound herring, English sole, and salmon and steelhead are below adverse effects thresholds (e.g., 2,400 ng PCB/g lipid and 1,400 ng PBDE/g lipid)
  - ii. Concentrations of PCBs and other biocumulative toxics in Puget Sound herring, English sole, and salmon and steelhead are below human-health screening levels (e.g., Department of Health screening levels for recreational or subsistence consumption rates, currently 33 ng PCB/g and 10 ng PCB/g fish tissue, respectively for a non-cancer endpoint).
- b. PAHs and EDCs – all samples meet the following thresholds:
  - i. English sole in Puget Sound exhibit no PAH-related liver disease
  - ii. English sole in Puget Sound exhibit no toxics-related reproductive impairment
  - iii. PAHs in herring are below an effects threshold.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership encourages partners to continue to develop new understandings of thresholds protective of fish, their predators, and human health; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership will work collaboratively with partners to develop a robust system of monitoring and indicators to describe the exposure and harm from toxic contaminants in fish, including freshwater fish.

