

Leadership Council Resolution 2011-19 Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for marine sediment quality

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, marine sediment quality provides a key indication that “fresh and marine waters and sediments [are] of a sufficient quality so that the waters in the region ... are not harmful to the native marine mammals, fish, birds, and shellfish of the region” (RCW 90.71.300(1)(f)); and

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

WHEREAS, marine sediment quality as monitored by the Department of Ecology 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 marine sediment quality; 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

