

- 1 Existing work groups and committees include at least:
2 • Stormwater Work Group (launched by the Consortium in 2008);
3 • Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program;
4 • Components of the Puget Sound Assessment and Monitoring Program (PSAMP);
5 • Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP);
6 • Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP);
7 • Puget Sound Toxics Loading Steering Committee;
8 • Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER); and many others.

9 **Criteria**

10 Criteria should serve as a basis for identifying the most needed Work Groups. Chapter 1 of
11 the Puget Sound Science Update, the adaptive management approach adopted by the Puget
12 Sound Partnership, and best professional judgment, guided the choice of criteria. Work Group
13 topics do not necessarily have to meet all criteria.

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15 Criteria to identify topics and commission Work Groups include:

- 16 • Meets the needs of the high level Dashboard of Indicators.
17 • Builds on ongoing monitoring initiatives (e.g., Stormwater Work Group, Puget Sound
18 Salmon Recovery Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program, and PSAMP
19 components).
20 • Addresses one of the six recovery goals determined by statute.
21 • Addresses indicators that meet the following criteria:
22 ○ Has a high signal to noise data
23 ○ Has significant number of years of data
24 ○ Is cost effective to monitor
25 ○ Meets needs for monitoring a habitat, high interest species or food web
26 • Ties in with the adaptive management framework adopted by the Puget Sound
27 Partnership: Fits with ecosystem components or threat reduction target as identified
28 with the Open Standards tool (currently in development).
29 • Addresses a gap in ecosystem or human health and well being topic or indicator to
30 protect or understand Puget Sound.
31 • Addresses a need for coordination of data collection, protocol development, data
32 management, data analysis, and reporting.
33 • Helps understand whether management actions are effective.

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35 **Funding**

36 Funding and staff support is important to successfully convene Work Groups, develop the
37 groups' charters and bylaws, develop and reach agreement on work plans, and begin to
38 implement those work plans. The Launch Committee envisions that the funding will be shared
39 among a variety of federal, state, local and private contributions in different combinations
40 specific to each Work Group. The Steering Committee will have to prioritize which Work
41 Group to commission first.

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1 **Recommendations for Work Group Topics**

2 **Water Quality**

3 We envision more than one Work Group falling under this broad topic. Work Groups will
4 address freshwater and marine water quality.

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6 Specific Work Groups include at least:

7 Stormwater

- 8 • Work Group exists already and is slated to be part of the Monitoring Program.
- 9 • The Stormwater Work Group builds on ongoing functioning monitoring entities and
10 efforts.
- 11 • Work group should address dashboard indicator water availability, water and
12 freshwater quality, toxics in fish and toxics in sediments.
- 13 • Meets need for water quality information, toxics, peak flow reductions, and
14 effectiveness of water quality pollution control measures. Coordinated with habitat
15 status in watersheds.
- 16 • Stormwater is considered a pressure and the Work Group fills crucial gap in protecting
17 Puget Sound.

18 Marine Water Quality

- 19 • Work Group should address overall marine water quality, including salinity, turbidity,
20 nutrients, pathogens, and oxygen.
- 21 • This work group would address dashboard indicators for marine water quality index,
22 shellfish beds restored, and swimming beaches.
- 23 • Work Group should evaluate and monitor effects of oceanic, climate and riverine flow
24 conditions on Puget Sound water quality.

25 Freshwater Quality and Streamflow

- 26 • Another possible Work Group topic, broader but related to stormwater.

27 **Salmonids**

- 28 • Work group will address dashboard indicators Wild Chinook salmon and Tribal/Non-
29 tribal commercial harvest and recreational fishing permit sales (a human dimension
30 indicator).
- 31 • Addresses all monitoring of salmonids in Puget Sound watersheds.
- 32 • Addresses monitoring of hatchery impacts and harvest impacts (positive and negative).
- 33 • Coordinates with Freshwater, Riparian, Terrestrial, and nearshore habitat work groups to
34 address salmonid habitat requirements.
- 35 • Builds on ongoing functioning monitoring entities and efforts to the extent possible.
- 36 • Will help understand the effectiveness of mechanisms for protection and restoration (e.g.,
37 Habitat Conservation Plans and permits).

38 **Freshwater, Riparian, and Terrestrial Habitats**

- 39 • Work group will address dashboard indicators land use/land cover and stream flows below
40 critical levels.
- 41 • Addresses status/trends of freshwater, riparian, and upland habitat quality and quantity.

- 1 • Addresses status of wetlands, invasive species, natural water storage such as glaciers,
2 groundwater, and effects of climate change on flow.

3 **Marine Nearshore Habitats**

- 4 • Work group will address the various nearshore habitats, as well as submerged aquatic
5 vegetation, inventory of hardened surfaces, derelict fishing gear, and invasive species
6 monitoring.
7 • This work group would address dashboard indicator eelgrass, and beach armoring.
8 • Evaluates and monitors effects of natural and human-caused processes on Puget Sound
9 nearshore habitats, including sedimentation and restoration.
10 • Builds on ongoing functioning monitoring entities and efforts, coordinate with PSNERP.

11 **Birds and Mammals**

- 12 • Work group would address dashboard indicators bird abundance and orca.
13 • Work group would address marine mammals, seabirds, migratory birds, amphibians,
14 reptiles, and terrestrial mammal monitoring.
15 • Harvest, recreation, and enhancement monitoring.

16 **Marine Food Chains and Forage Fish**

- 17 • Work group would address dashboard indicator Pacific herring and toxics in fish.
18 • Work group would also address marine fishes, marine invertebrates, phyto and
19 zooplankton trends in Puget Sound.
20 • Monitor impact of invasive marine species on native fauna and habitats.
21 • Ensure that all trophic levels are being monitored in a way that will detect major changes
22 in abundances of key species and aggregates.

23 **Human Dimensions**

- 24 • Work group would address dashboard indicators sound behavior Index and PS quality of
25 life index.
26 • Addresses one of the six recovery goals determined by statute.
27 • Addresses a gap in ecosystem or human health and well being topic or indicator.

28 **Coordination of Data Management and Access**

- 29 • Meets need for coordination of various information management scattered throughout
30 agencies and tribes, compilation of, and access to information about Puget Sound
31 indicators.
32 • Existing Data Exchange Network Work Group (coordinate water quality, fish, habitat)
33 could serve as foundation for this Work Group.
34 • This topic must also be addressed within each work group.