



**Puget Sound Starts Here**  
**Vetted Statements from Recent Findings**  
**(Revised 6/04/10)**

The following statements are based on the best available science for the date indicated.

As scientists continue to work to understand the issues facing Puget Sound, some of the statements below may change as new and better information becomes available.

If you wish to make sure that you have the latest, most accurate edition of this document go to the Puget Sound Starts Here Toolkit at:  
[www.psp.wa.gov/econet\\_PSSH.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/econet_PSSH.php)

**Statement 1**

The Washington State Department of Ecology estimates that millions of pounds of toxic pollution flow into Puget Sound each year.

*Washington State Department of Ecology. 2008. "Control of Toxic Chemicals in Puget Sound, Phase 2: Development of Simple Numerical Models."*  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/Programs/wq/pstoxics/index.html>

*Washington State Department of Ecology. 2010. "Focus on Toxic Chemicals in Puget Sound."*  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0810097.pdf>

**Statement 2**

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology stormwater that runs off paved roads and driveways, rooftops, yards and other developed land is a major source of pollution to Puget Sound.

*"Control of Toxic Chemicals in Puget Sound," Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), Phase 2: Development of Simple Numerical Models, 2008;*  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/Programs/wq/pstoxics/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/Programs/wq/pstoxics/index.html)

**Statement 3**

549 streams, rivers and lakes across the Puget Sound region are impaired by poor water quality.

*"Washington State's Water Quality Assessment [303(d)]," Washington State Department of Ecology, 2008;* [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/)

#### **Statement 4**

Transient and southern resident [orcas] are indeed considered to be “among the most PCB contaminated mammals on the planet.”

*P. Ross person communications, 2009; Ross P.S., G. M. Ellis, M. G. Ikonomou, L. G. Barrett-Lennard and R.F. Addison, 2000, "High PCB Concentrations in Free-Ranging Pacific Killer Whales, Orcinus orca: Effects of Age, Sex and Dietary Preference," Marine Pollution Bulletin, Vol 40, 6: 504-515*

#### **Statement 5**

Harbor seals in Puget Sound are seven times more contaminated with the persistent toxic chemicals known as PCBs than those living in Canada’s Strait of Georgia, which adjoins the Sound.

*Cullon, D. L., S. J. Jefferies, P. Ross, 2005, "Persistent organic pollutants in the diet of harbor seals (Phoca vitulina) inhabiting Puget Sound, Washington (USA), and the Strait of Georgia, British Columbia (Canada): a food basket approach," Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 24 (10); pp. 2562–2572*

#### **Statement 6**

The tourism industry in the Puget Sound region is valued at \$9.5 billion a year, with hundreds of thousands of people drawn to the sound for its natural beauty and recreational opportunities.

*"Focus on Puget Sound: Economic Facts," Washington State Department of Ecology, October, 2008; [www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0601006.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0601006.pdf)*

#### **Statement 7**

The Puget Sound’s fishing and shellfish industry, dependent on clean waters, is conservatively valued at \$147 million a year. This includes all recreational, treaty, non-treaty, commercial, and aquatic farm production activities.

*"Focus on Puget Sound: Economic Facts," Washington State Department of Ecology, October, 2008; [www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0601006.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0601006.pdf)*

#### **Statement 8**

Many people choose to live in the Puget Sound region because of the area’s quality of life. There are 2.2 million private sector jobs in the Puget Sound region, which account for an annual payroll of \$102 billion.

*"Focus on Puget Sound: Economic Facts," Washington State Department of Ecology, October, 2008; [www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0601006.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0601006.pdf)*

## Statement 9

In 1960, 1.8 million people lived in the 12 counties that make up the Puget Sound region. By 2008, nearly 4.4 million called the area home. The Washington State Office of Financial Management anticipates that by 2020, 5.1 million will live and work here – a net increase of about 700,000 people over the next 11 years.

*“Historical and Project Population for Growth Management and Other Purposes, Medium Series: History 1960 to 2000 and Projections from 2010 to 2030,” Washington Office of Financial Management, 2007 projections; [www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/default.asp](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/default.asp)*