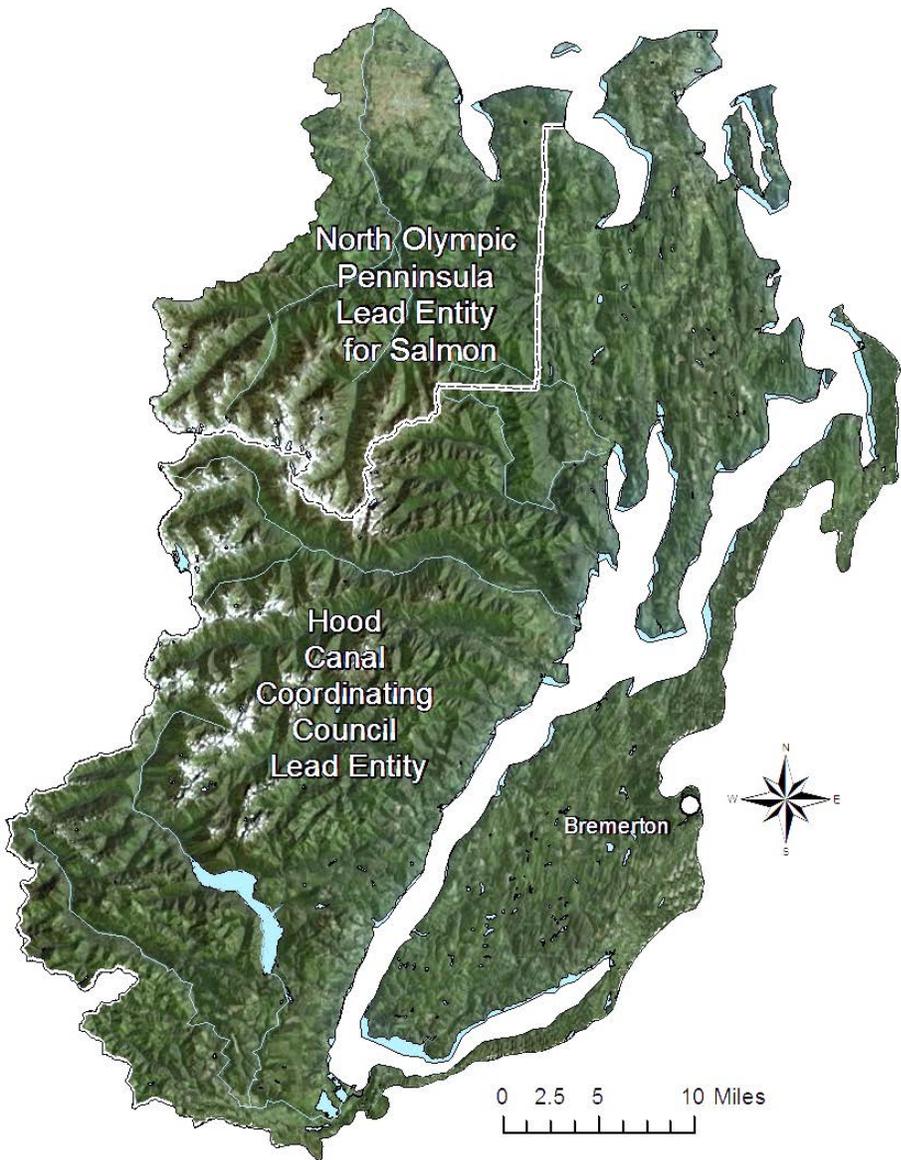


Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region



Hood Canal
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Region Overview

Geography

The Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region is nested within the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region for Chinook and steelhead. The Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region is also a separate salmon recovery region for Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon. It includes parts of Jefferson, Mason, Clallam, and Kitsap Counties.

Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA)

All or parts of Kitsap (15), Skokomish-Dosewallips (16), Quilcene-Snow (17), and Elwha-Dungeness (18) and part of Shelton (14)

Federally Recognized Tribes

Skokomish Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Suquamish Tribe

Salmon Recovery Plan

Table 8. Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region Recovery Plan

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Plan	
Regional Organization	Hood Canal Coordinating Council, composed of Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason Counties and the Port Gamble S’Klallam and Skokomish Tribes
Plan Timeframe	10-30 years
Actions Identified to Implement Plan	296
Estimated Cost	\$130 million
Status	NOAA-Fisheries formally adopted the recovery plan for Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon in May 2007.
Implementation Schedule Status	The Hood Canal Coordinating Council and its plan implementation partners are using an implementation schedule with a 3-year timeframe and with more detailed information on recovery plan actions and costs.
Web Information	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Web Site Habitat Work Schedule

Endangered Species Act Listings

Table 9. Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region Listed Species

Species Listed	Listed As	Date Listed
Hood Canal Summer Chum	Threatened	March 25, 1999
Puget Sound Bull Trout	Threatened	November 1999

Region and Lead Entities

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) is the regional recovery organization for Hood Canal and eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon. The Puget Sound Partnership serves as the regional recovery organization for Puget Sound Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. HCCC is one of two lead entities in the region covering the area encompassed by Mason, Kitsap and Jefferson Counties. The North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon covers the area of the region within Clallam County.

Regional Area Summary Questions and Responses

Describe the process and criteria used to develop allocations across lead entities or watersheds within the region?

The Hood Canal summer chum salmon evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) is composed of two populations, Hood Canal and eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca. Within the geographic area of each population is several watersheds with subpopulations of Hood Canal summer chum. Recovery efforts of the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca population are supported by two lead entities (LE), namely the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) LE and the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon (NOPE). Recovery efforts of the Hood Canal population are supported by the HCCC LE. Both lead entities support recovery efforts for other salmonid species as well. HCCC is the LE for the subpopulations of Puget Sound Chinook (Skokomish, Mid-Hood Canal), Coastal-Puget Sound Bull Trout, and Puget Sound Steelhead.

Preliminary stock and watershed prioritization was conducted in 2014 in order to further guide the HCCC Board of Directors, Citizens Committee, and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in LE process and decision-making. An independent consultant, working with our salmon recovery partners, evaluated all stocks in the region and created a preliminary ranking based on criteria developed in discussions with the HCCC Board and technical partners. The stock ranking used

policy-related guidance to identify scoring principles for assigning prioritization scores to individual fish stocks and associated habitats for recovery actions as follows:

1. Higher priority for recovery actions should be directed at stocks that are in greatest need of habitat improvements based on long-term trends in abundance, risk of further loss or risk of suffering from low abundance demographic effects, and their current status relative to historic performance. ESA-listed stocks are to be given higher priority over non-listed stocks.
2. Higher priority should be given to stocks that have been identified in some way as being in urgent need of attention by NOAA Fisheries and/or the Co-Managers due to the role of the stock in ESU recovery or regional and trans-regional fisheries.
3. Higher priority should be given to stocks that would contribute the most to the abundance of the species in the region, if those stocks would benefit from restoration actions or other related activities, unless there is compelling evidence that improvements in diversity are necessary for recovery or rebuilding, in which case key stocks that amplify diversity could be given equally high priority. *(Note: this may be redundant – still being considered)*
4. Higher priority should be given to stocks for which information on performance and limiting factors is most certain, i.e., greater uncertainty exists about need and potential outcome for stocks having a high level of uncertainty about status and limiting factors.
5. Higher priority should be given to stocks where the certainty of success associated with projects is higher than for stocks with unknown or less certainty of success.
6. Higher priority should be given to stocks that likely have a higher ecological significance to the stability and vitality of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
7. Higher priority should be given to stocks that are biologically more unique in the Hood Canal region, Puget Sound region, or the Pacific Northwest compared to other stocks in these areas—this considers the extent of loss in life history and genetic diversity that would occur if a stock was extirpated or opportunities for re-introduction and recovery become even more difficult.
8. Higher priority should be given to stocks that have special importance to either the tribal cultures within the Hood Canal region or to non-tribal cultures in the same region.
9. Higher priority should be given to stocks that provide the greatest direct or indirect economic benefits to the communities within the Hood Canal region or in nearby communities.

Project sponsors submitted their highest priority projects for salmon recovery based on guidance provided in the *Hood Canal & Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan*, the *Skokomish Watershed Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan* and the Mid-Hood Canal Chinook Salmon Recovery chapter of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan being implemented by the Puget Sound Partnership. Guidance for priority projects is also provided by the 3-Year Work Program and projects consistent with the HCCC Preliminary Prioritized Actions. Details of the LE process and criteria can be found in the *Hood Canal Coordinating Council Process Guide* and *LE 2014 Amendment*.

How was the regional technical review conducted?

The regional technical review for the Hood Canal summer chum ESU has multiple layers. The HCCC Board of Directors charged the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), composed of local, regional, state, federal, and tribal biologists, to serve as advisory to the HCCC Board, staff and citizens and to conduct a regional evaluation of projects across the entire ESU including summer chum restoration and protection projects submitted to the HCCC LE in the overlapped salmon recovery region with NOPL.

After independent, reach-scale scoring of each project is conducted by the HCCC TAG members the proposed project scores are compiled regionally, normalized, and tested for statistical significance. The resulting list is evaluated within statistical bins. This year there were three distinct bins of scored projects. The evaluation of the projects within these bins is done by the TAG in the ranking meeting. The resulting list is forwarded on to the Citizens Committee for further evaluation and then the HCCC Board of Directors as the Lead Entity. The TAG, Citizens Committee, and Board of Directors each compared the project list to the preliminary action ranking. The preliminary action ranking evaluated actions and projects using the following criteria:

1. Relative cost of the action
2. Relative length of time needed for full benefits of the action to be achieved
3. Relevance or significance of actions scale
4. Certainty of success in implementation and timeliness
5. Public outreach benefits
6. Stock association
7. Extent of limiting factors being addressed or extent that natural processes are addressed that affect limiting factors
8. Expected effectiveness of action if action is carried out fully and appropriately

The resultant action ranking were considered, but not fully utilized as the Board, TAG and Citizens Committee wanted more time to fully vet the approach and criteria determinations.

Independent technical reviews were conducted by the SRFB Review Panel in which two members attended site visits with HCCC TAG and Citizens Committee members, all of which provided comments (written and/or verbal) to project sponsors before final submittal of applications were due. The Puget Sound Recovery Implementation Technical Team (RITT) reviewed the HCCC 3-Year Work Program and proposed projects for consistency with the strategies in the regional recovery plans.

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council will again seek an additional, independent technical review by the scientist's in NOAA's Domain Team who are familiar with summer chum status, viability analyses, recovery plan and supporting documents, and habitat limiting factors. The previous year's conclusion is that, "We believe your overall approach to project ranking is consistent with the recovery objectives and strategies laid out in the Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan."

What criteria were used for the regional technical review?

The HCCC Technical Advisory Group reviews according to the following criteria:

- Primary Species Benefited
- Benefit to Salmon
- Certainty of Success
- Cost Appropriateness

The ultimate question being asked of the NOAA's Domain Team is how well do the proposed projects fit the priorities of the *Hood Canal and Eastern Straits of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Recovery Plan*? We provide no other criteria than existing criteria in the recovery plan.

Who completed the review (name, affiliation, and expertise) and are they part of the regional organization or independent?

HCCC Technical Advisory Group members are listed below under Local Review Process.

Participants of the Domain Team included NOAA employees Tim Tynan, Matt Longenbaugh, Susan Bishop, Jody Walters, and Elizabeth Babcock. These professionals are considered independent, with no other conflicts of interest.

Were there any projects submitted to the SRFB for funding that were not specifically identified in the regional implementation plan or habitat work schedule? (If so, please

provide justification for including these projects to the list of projects recommended to the SRFB for funding. If the projects were identified in the regional implementation plan or strategy but considered a low priority or in a low priority area, please provide justification.)

The *Hood Canal & Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan* lays out a four-tier priority system of geographic areas for summer chum stocks based on whether they are extant (eight total), extinct (eight total), recently observed, or near-shore areas. The *HCCC Process Guide* further refines that framework and integrates it with other local Endangered Species Act-listed salmonids to four domains looking at extant stocks (ten total), re-introduced stocks (three total), extinct stocks, and all others. Then those watersheds are reviewed for species distribution and habitat limiting factors in order to develop potential projects included in the 3-Year Work Program. All proposed projects must then come from either the 3-Year Work Program directly, or be consistent with the 3-Year Work Program and 2014 Preliminary Prioritized Stocks & Actions. Finally, the TAG and the independent federal review process provide insight into whether specific projects truly are providing benefits to high priority stocks.

All forwarded projects in 2014 are consistent with the salmon recovery plans, 3-year work program and HCCC Preliminary Prioritized Stocks & Actions. Of the 16 projects proposed for SRFB or PSAR funding, all address high priority stocks in the region, with an additional two projects culled from the project list and not submitted. Of these two projects, one did not address high priority stocks and one was determined to need further refinement to address the high priority action in the region. Of the forwarded projects, two projects are seeking specific Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) funding separate from the regular SRFB or PSAR allocation.

How did your regional review consider whether a project:

Provides benefit to high priority stocks for the purpose of salmon recovery or sustainability? In addition to limiting factors analysis, SaSI, and SSHIAP¹, what stock assessment work has been done to date to further characterize the status of salmonid species in the region?

The past few years have seen significant advances in stock assessments, recovery planning, and project prioritization for both Chinook and summer chum salmon. Skokomish Chinook have

¹ SaSI = Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory; SSHIAP=Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program

undergone both a full stock assessment of various races of Chinook and potential for successful recovery of that watershed, with a plan that now prioritizes spring Chinook reintroduction and resulting habitat improvements for that species. The Hood Canal Coordinating Council and partners have updated the summer chum salmon viability analysis (including downscaling to subpopulation levels), assessed habitat progress to date from past project and program-level investments, compared that to emerging goals for each subpopulation, and created a new 10-year habitat conceptual project list that will lead us to recovery. Work is in progress to further refine the analyses and provide recommendations for future funding rounds.

Preliminary stock prioritization was conducted in 2014 in order to further guide the HCCC Board of Directors and the TAG in lead entity process and decision-making. An independent consultant evaluated the stocks and created a preliminary ranking. This ranking guided a broad representation of stock priorities to apply to the 2014 LE grant round. Criteria considered in this evaluation included:

- Stock status (expected or known)
- Stock status (expected or known)
- Role in Species Abundance
- Role in Species Diversity (also considers spatial structure and effects of asynchrony)
- Certainty of knowledge about status and limiting factors
- Certainty of success with focused actions (may take into account knowledge of limiting factors and evidence for past success)
- Ecological significance (considers benefits to ecosystem, e.g. added nutrients and/or food resources with timing of presence)
- Biological uniqueness
- Tribal cultural significance
- Non-tribal social significance
- Economic significance

The resulting list was incorporated in the 2014 project evaluation process with mandatory criteria for all SRFB and PSAR project proposals to primarily benefit at least one of the top 12 tiers of stock rankings of priority species in the region. Continued work in addressing prioritization of stocks and strategies is planned to advise and improve the Hood Canal salmon recovery process.

Addresses cost-effectiveness?

The TAG uses “cost appropriateness” as one of its four major factors in independently scoring

each project with the Citizens Committee reviewing project cost issues and regional funding levels. These include ranking criteria according to whether or not the project is expensive relative to other projects, that expense is justified, funding it would affect funding of other good projects, and project appropriateness for these types of funds. Both the TAG and Citizens Committee considered project timing and sequencing as a type of cost effectiveness. Additionally, there is a 15 percent match requirement of SRFB and PSAR funded projects. Although we do not award points or rankings based on whether the sponsor provided more than the required match, many projects have substantial match funding emphasizing the high priority of the projects.

Local Review Processes

Provide project evaluation criteria and documentation of your local Citizens Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group ratings for each project, including explanations for differences between the two group’s ratings.

As documented in the *2014 HCCC Process Guide Amendment* and meeting minutes, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) evaluated projects using the following criteria:

Primary Species Benefited: Prioritized stock habitats HCCC 2014 Preliminary Prioritization Stocks, salmon recovery plans for summer chum, Skokomish Chinook, and Mid-Hood Canal Chinook, and the HCCC 3-Year Work Program

- ESA stocks: 8 extant Hood Canal summer chum, 2 extant Hood Canal Chinook salmon populations *including natal freshwater and sub-estuarine habitats within 1 mile of natal freshwater habitat
 - ESA listed Hood Canal summer chum stocks; Union, Lilliwaup, Hama Hama, Duckabush, Dosewallips, Quilcenes, Snow/Salmon, Jimmycomelately
 - ESA listed Hood Canal Chinook stocks; Skokomish Chinook, Mid-Hood Canal Chinook
- 3 reintroduced extinct summer chum subpopulations (Chimacum, Big Beef, Tahuya) and significant nearshore habitats
- Meets required criteria with primary species benefitted within top 12 groupings in HCCC 2014 Prioritization Stock Ranking

Benefit to Salmon

- Project scale is appropriate/sufficient
- Project addresses key limiting factors
- Protects or restores natural functions and processes
- Integration or association with other salmon recovery projects and assessments in the

watershed

- Duration of biological benefits
- SRFB definition of high, medium, and low benefits

Certainty of Success

- Adequacy and appropriateness of project design
- Sequence is appropriate for watershed conditions
- Project proponent and their partners' experience and capability
- Certainty that objectives can be achieved
- SRFB definition of high, medium, and low certainty

Cost Appropriateness

- Budget appears reasonable relative to proposed achievements
- Budget appears reasonable relative to like projects

The HCCC Citizens Committee evaluated projects using the following criteria:

Funding Criteria:

- Relative Cost
 - Project Appropriateness
 - Funding Source & Allocation

Community Impact & Education Criteria:

- Public Outreach Plan
- Community Support
- Community Concerns
- Education
- Public Visibility

Again this year, the TAG and Citizens Committee conditioned projects to ensure certainty of success and efficient use of funding. *Dosewallips River Forest Service Road Decommissioning* project was conditioned as: it must remain as a total decommissioning for 50 years to include trails. *Kilisut Harbor Restoration - Construction Phase* is to submit the full request for funding to the PSAR Large Capital funding source with the SRFB funding award eligibility conditioned as follows:

- If the project is partially funded through PSAR Large Capital, up to \$1 million is available to NOSC to further fund the project,
- If no funding is awarded through PSAR Large Capital, \$500,000 is available to NOSC to continue to fund the project with the other \$500,000 to fund down the list,
- If full funding is awarded through PSAR Large Capital all SRFB funding is withdrawn from project and moved further down the list.

We will work with the SRFB grants manager to incorporate these conditions into RCO grant agreements.

The HCCC LE Citizens Committee provided the following list of recommended projects:

Rank	Project Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in recovery plan or strategy (list page)
1	14-1321	Lower Big Quilcene River Riparian Protection	Jefferson Land Trust	Summer Chum	HC SC Recovery Plan, Ch 8, p136-Protection of Freshwater Reaches; p138-Loss of Riparian Forest
2	14-1369	Skokomish Estuary Restoration Phase 3C	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook, Summer Chum	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain: "Restore degraded estuarine and nearshore conditions"; substrategies: "Remove levees and landfill" and "Fill borrow ditches"
3	14-1322	Duckabush Riparian Habitat Acquisition	Jefferson Land Trust	Summer Chum, Chinook	HC SC Recovery Plan, Ch 9, p168-loss of riparian forest; Mid-Hood Canal Chinook Results Chain: "Protection: Acquisition and Regulatory Measures"; substrategies: "Conservation strategies implemented including purchase of properties & conservation easements"
4	14-1326	Beards Cove Restoration	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Summer Chum	HC Summer Chum Recovery Plan, Ch11, p230-Remove fill, pool, infrastructure east of Klingle Wetlands and restore lost salt marsh habitat
5	14-1300	Dosewallips Estuary Barge Removal	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum, Chinook	HC SC Recovery Plan, Ch9, p185, remove barge at mouth of Walker Creek; Mid-Hood Canal Results Chain: "Restore Estuarine Habitat"
6	14-1328	Skokomish River General Investigation 2014	Mason Conservation District, Mason County	Chinook	Skokomish Recovery Plan, Ch4, p121-122
7	14-1366	Kilisut Harbor Restoration-Construction Phase	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Summer Chum, Chinook	Puget Sound Chinook Nearshore Chapter, p 150-151; HC Summer Chum Recovery Plan, Ch11, p214, 8- Oak Bay segment ranked highest (tied with Skokomish west shore) among estuarine-marine area for potential benefits of restoration; HC SC Recovery Plan, Appendix B, Ch 3, fig 7- Kilisut Harbor located in Oak Bay segment
8	14-1284	Lower Big Beef Creek Restoration-Construction	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum	HC Summer Chum Recovery Plan, Ch12, p253-255-UW Research Station; Big Beef Cr Preservation; Remove UW Service Road & Fill; Intensively Monitored Watershed Plan: p17-B Beef Cr. Control sediment delivery/routing, temperature, low summer discharge
9	14-1332	South Fork Skokomish LWD Enhancement Phase 3	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain "Restore upper watershed conditions in South Fork and major tributaries"; substrategy "Increase woody debris and log jam density"
10	14-1329	Mainstem Skokomish LWD Design	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain "Restore lower floodplain conditions"; substrategy "Construct ELJs and install log jams to restore channel complexity and sediment processes"
11	14-1315	Hood Canal S Chum Nearshore Habitat Use Assessment	Wild Fish Conservancy	Summer Chum	Not explicit in recovery plan, identified as a gap; Ranked #2 in Hood Canal prioritized actions list
12	14-1320	Dosewallips River Forest Service Road Decommissioning	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum, Chinook	HC SC Recovery Plan, Ch9, p168-sediment aggradation; p176-Olympic National Forest & State Lands; p186 acquire lands/sediment aggradation; Mid-Hood Canal Results Chain: "Reduce sediment delivery from erosion and mass wasting events of USFS roads"; substrate
13	14-1318	Lower Union River Habitat Assessment and feasibility	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum	HC Summer Chum Recovery Plan, Ch 11, p217-Estuarine habitat loss and degradation
14	14-1334	S. Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain "Restore upper watershed conditions in South Fork and major tributaries"; substrategy "Improve adult

					passage at the gorge cascades"
15	14-1368	Vance Creek LWD Design	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain "Restore lower floodplain conditions"; substrategy "Remove impediments to meander, avulsion, and channel connectivity"
N/A	14-1376	Skokomish River Natural Process Rehabilitation	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chains "Restore lower floodplain conditions"; "Restore upper watershed conditions in SF and major tributaries"; and "Restore estuarine and nearshore conditions"
N/A	14-1889	Little Anderson IMW Stream Enhancement- Ph 3	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum	Intensively Monitored Watershed Plan: p17-LAnderson Cr. Habitat complexity, sediment routing, water delivery/routing, off-channel habitat, LWD

Identify your local technical review team (include expertise, names, and affiliations of members.)

- Jody Walters, NOAA-Fisheries, Fish Biologist, TAG scorer
- Thom Johnson, Point No Point Treaty Council, Environmental Program Manager, TAG scorer
- Carrie Cook-Tabor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Biologist, TAG scorer
- Marc McHenry, U.S. Forest Service, Fish Biologist, TAG scorer
- Hans Daubenberger, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Habitat Biologist and Research Manager, TAG scorer
- Gina Piazza, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Biologist, TAG scorer
- Leonard Machut, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Biologist, TAG scorer
- Doris Small, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Biologist, TAG non-scoring
- Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy, Director of Conservation, TAG non-scoring
- Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District, fish biologist, TAG non-scoring
- Alex Gouley, Skokomish Tribe, fish biologist, TAG non-scoring

Also included as non-scoring members are Mike Ramsey from RCO, Tom Slocum, and Marnie Tyler from SRFB, and Stacy Vynne McKinstry from PSP

Explain how and when the SRFB Review Panel participated in your local process, if applicable.

SRFB Review Panel members and RCO grants managers participated in field reviews and provided comments on pre-applications and final applications. The RCO grants manager, Mike Ramsey, also was instrumental in implementing the process and ensuring alignment with RCO processes and protocols.

Explain how multi-year implementation plans or habitat work schedules were used to develop project lists.

Project sponsors submit their highest priority projects for salmon recovery as defined by the priorities in the *Hood Canal & Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan*, *Mid-Hood Canal Chinook Recovery Plan*, and the *Skokomish Chinook Recovery Plan* demonstrated in the 3-Year Work Program and projects consistent with that program in the HCCC Preliminary Prioritized Actions. Proposed projects were required to be listed on the 3-Year Work Program in which they were linked to the recovery strategy the proposed project addresses. This requirement guided the 2014 project list development coupled with efforts to translate the Chinook Recovery Plan and the associated strategies into Miradi software. In addition, The HCCC Board of directors developed and implemented a prioritization process to guide salmon recovery efforts across the Hood Canal and the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The HCCC 3-Year Work Program actions were incorporated into a preliminary regional stock and action ranking in February 2014. The action ranking was developed to be a process change for 2014 requested by the HCCC Board of Directors with the intent to ensure salmon recovery funding was being applied to the highest priority actions.

Each year, the 3-Year Work Program is updated by council staff and partners. This year, updates were made in the form of the action ranking. Partners submitted updates to be ranked if they were not already specifically in the 3-Year Work Program. All newly submitted actions were in the 3-Year Work Program as an action addressing a strategy rather than a specific project. The variation in the level of detail posed to be one of the issues with the implementation of the action ranking.

The HCCC partners, through a rigorous comment period, determined it to be premature to fully apply the 2014 Preliminary Prioritized Actions to the 2014 ranking process. Rather, a transition process was developed for 2014, which incorporated stock ranking priorities into project development and evaluation. Additionally, the HCCC Board of Directors conducted a review to ensure the regional priorities of the Hood Canal salmon recovery plans were utilized in the development of the 2014 habitat project list.

Explain how comments of technical, citizen, and policy reviews were addressed in finalizing the project list. Were there any issues about projects on the list and how were those resolved?

The Technical Advisory Group and Citizens Committee received public comments from one Mason County citizen. The Citizens Committee received public comment from project sponsors

as well as a Skokomish tribal member and Board member. The comments were provided to all participants and considered by each committee. The HCCC Board of Directors received public comment from a Jefferson County citizen as well as from the Puget Sound Partnership Director of Salmon Recovery and the Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. These comments were distributed to all Board of Directors for consideration.

Technical comments from the TAG were directed to project sponsors during the pre-application phase and incorporated at that time before projects were finalized. An opportunity for this feedback was given at site visits as well as a project merits meeting and the public comment period. The SRFB Review Panel also provided technical comments during the pre-application phase that were addressed in the final application attached in PRISM, or in specific meetings. Robust project reviews by the technical and citizen committees during the ranking meetings yielded several recommendations for improvement that were incorporated into final project descriptions and implementation.

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council Board of Directors conducted a policy review. Scoring difficulties of assessments and nearshore projects compared to other project types, policy stances on recovery plan priorities from watershed partners as well as residual funding level of regional allocations were considered by the Board of Directors as they adopted the final project list to be forwarded for funding.

Specific issues that arose during the finalization of the project list are summarized below:

Duckabush Riparian Habitat Acquisition included a 1000ft buffer on a steep slope along the riparian zone and commercial timberlands. Concerns were over the wide buffer included in the property, as well as the need (or lack of due to Forest and Fish protections) of protecting the embankment. Also voiced was the priority to preserve this priority habitat for future generations. The technical group discussed implementing specific guidelines to scoring structure in future rounds for acquisitions and buffer widths with an understanding that the 200ft buffer is a minimum but flexibility is needed in evaluating riparian widths. A US Navy easement on the property was a favorable attribute to the project and it remained a high ranking project throughout the process.

Dosewallips Estuary Barge Removal involved removal of a structure up-land from the barge. TAG members suggested the sponsor remove that portion of the project to strengthen the proposal and likely increase the benefit to salmon scores in the local evaluation process. The sponsor made the adjustment. The project scored and remained ranked within the funding range.

Kilisut Harbor Restoration-Construction Phase is a large project that clearly cannot be funded

solely through the regional allocation for SRFB; hence the project is seeking PSAR Large Capital funding. The project sponsor asked for \$1,000,000 in SRFB funding to support the project. In the regional ranking process, Kilisut was ranked to receive partial SRFB funding in order to allow funding for other projects but situated high enough in the ranking in which it could possibly receive more funding in the case of returned funds availability. The TAG and Citizens Committee conditioned the project to allow for 2014 SRFB funding only if it does not receive the full funding from PSAR Large Capital. There was concern from the HCCC Board of Directors over whether this was an appropriate approach with some members stating the status of the PSAR Large Capital request will not be known until June 2015 which would align more appropriately with the 2015 SRFB funding round. The Kilisut Harbor project remained on the SRFB list as it was discussed at each level of the process.

South Fork Skokomish LWD Enhancement Phase 3 and S. Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment are projects listed as “Highest Priority” in the *Skokomish Chinook Recovery Plan*. They are specifically listed as priority actions needed in the watershed as, “channel stability in upper South Fork” and “passage over obstructions.” Concerns over these particular priorities not being ranked for funding by the TAG and Citizens Committee process was brought up at the HCCC Board review level by the Skokomish representative on the HCCC Board. It was argued during the August 8, 2014 HCCC Board Special meeting that the priorities of the Skokomish Watershed Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan were not adequately factored into the LE process. In particular, the S. Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage project was argued that it was designed as an assessment to determine whether a natural barrier, had over time, been compromised by changes in habitat and environmental conditions caused by human or anthropogenic actions with any further action defined upon completion of the assessment in consideration of the assessment’s determinations as well as whether those determinations can be addressed utilizing potential funding sources including SRFB funding. Members of the TAG were concerned that the project could ultimately result in the natural barrier being altered. The TAG also felt that the project as designed might not be able to be implemented given the nature of the area of river to be assessed. The result of this issue was the HCCC Board of Directors, understanding the purpose of the project is to evaluate this issue, moved to submit the project for SRFB consideration for funding.

Hood Canal S. Chum Nearshore Habitat Use Assessment and Hood Canal Nearshore Prioritization Tool are both assessments aimed to address the high priority data gaps in the Hood Canal salmon recovery plans identified in the 2014 Preliminary Prioritized Actions. The TAG determined that a regional approach to addressing these data gaps is needed, and the *Hood Canal Nearshore Prioritization Tool*, in particular, needed further development. Members of the HCCC Board of Directors addressed the same concern with the *Hood Canal S. Chum Nearshore*

Habitat Use Assessment project, although the technical group felt this project would be beneficial for gathering data for future project planning and development. The result was the *Hood Canal S. Chum Nearshore Habitat Use Assessment* being submitted on the list although ranked as an alternate and the *Hood Canal Nearshore Prioritization Tool* being removed from the list until further technical discussions can formulate an assessment that the technical group feels more closely addresses the data gap needs.

Dosewallips River Forest Service Road Decommissioning project prompted concerns of committee members over the length of time the road would be required to remain decommissioned. The project was conditioned to state the road would remain as a total decommission for 50 years to include trails.

Project List Summary Table

Projects proposed in the following list will primarily benefit Hood Canal summer chum, Hood Canal Chinook salmon populations critical for Puget Sound Chinook salmon recovery or both. The Hood Canal Coordinating Council LE was provided a regional allocation of \$423,000 from the SRFB for Hood Canal summer chum. The HCCC also was allotted \$772,165 from the Puget Sound Partnership for Chinook and steelhead.

The following table reflects the Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region’s project list as submitted for 2014. Of the 18 projects submitted by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, there are two conditioned projects and eight alternate projects. Combined, these projects total \$6,673,669 in requested funding and \$8,103,928 in match funding. The HCCC Board of Directors, with input from the lead entity committees, have approved allocating all available SRFB funds (\$1,195,165) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds (\$1,864,626) towards funding down the 2014 habitat project list.

Table 10. Hood Canal Coordinating Council Proposed Projects

Rank	Project Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	3 C. Primary Fish Stock Benefited	3 E. Priority in recovery plan or strategy (list page)
1	14-1321	Lower Big Quilcene River Riparian Protection	Jefferson Land Trust	Summer Chum	HC SC Recovery Plan, Ch 8, p136-Protection of Freshwater Reaches; p138-Loss of Riparian Forest
2	14-1369	Skokomish Estuary Restoration Phase 3C	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook, Summer Chum	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain: "Restore degraded estuarine and nearshore conditions"; substrategies: "Remove levees and landfill" and "Fill borrow ditches"
3	14-1322	Duckabush Riparian Habitat Acquisition	Jefferson Land Trust	Summer Chum, Chinook	HC SC Recovery Plan, Ch 9, p168-loss of riparian forest; Mid-Hood Canal Chinook Results Chain: "Protection: Acquisition and Regulatory Measures"; substrategies: "Conservation strategies implemented including purchase of properties & conservation easements"

Appendix L– Regional Summaries
Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

4	14-1326	Beards Cove Restoration	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Summer Chum	HC Summer Chum Recovery Plan, Ch11, p230- Remove fill, pool, infrastructure east of Klingle Wetlands and restore lost salt marsh habitat
5	14-1300	Dosewallips Estuary Barge Removal	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum, Chinook	HC SC Recovery Plan, Ch9, p185, remove barge at mouth of Walker Creek; Mid-Hood Canal Results Chain: "Restore Estuarine Habitat"
6	14-1328	Skokomish River General Investigation 2014	Mason Conservation District, Mason County	Chinook	Skokomish Recovery Plan, Ch4, p121-122
7	14-1334	S. Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain "Restore upper watershed conditions in South Fork and major tributaries"; substrategy "Improve adult passage at the gorge cascades"
8	14-1366	Kilist Harbor Restoration- Construction Phase	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Summer Chum, Chinook	Puget Sound Chinook Nearshore Chapter, p 150-151; HC Summer Chum Recovery Plan, Ch11, p214, 8- Oak Bay segment ranked highest (tied with Skokomish west shore) among estuarine-marine area for potential benefits of restoration; HC SC Recovery Plan, Appendix B, Ch 3, fig 7- Kilist Harbor located in Oak Bay segment
9	14-1284	Lower Big Beef Creek Restoration- Construction	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum	HC Summer Chum Recovery Plan, Ch12, p253-255- UW Research Station; Big Beef Cr Preservation; Remove UW Service Road & Fill; Intensively Monitored Watershed Plan: p17-B Beef Cr. Control sediment delivery/routing, temperature, low summer discharge
10	14-1332	South Fork Skokomish LWD Enhancement Phase 3	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain "Restore upper watershed conditions in South Fork and major tributaries"; substrategy "Increase woody debris and log jam density"
11	14-1329	Mainstem Skokomish LWD Design	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain "Restore lower floodplain conditions"; substrategy "Construct ELJs and install log jams to restore channel complexity and sediment processes"
12	14-1315	Hood Canal S Chum Nearshore Habitat Use Assessment	Wild Fish Conservancy	Summer Chum	Not explicit in recovery plan, identified as a gap; Ranked #2 in Hood Canal prioritized actions list
13	14-1320	Dosewallips River Forest Service Road Decommissioning	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum, Chinook	HC SC Recovery Plan, Ch9, p168-sediment aggradation; p176-Olympic National Forest & State Lands; p186 acquire lands/sediment aggradation; Mid-Hood Canal Results Chain: "Reduce sediment delivery from erosion and mass wasting events of USFS roads"; substrate
14	14-1318	Lower Union River Habitat Assessment and feasibility	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum	HC Summer Chum Recovery Plan, Ch 11, p217- Estuarine habitat loss and degradation
15	14-1368	Vance Creek LWD Design	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chain "Restore lower floodplain conditions"; substrategy " Remove impediments to meander, avulsion, and channel connectivity"
N/A	14-1376	Skokomish River Natural Process Rehabilitation	Mason Conservation District, Skokomish Tribe	Chinook	From Skokomish M&AM Results Chains "Restore lower floodplain conditions"; "Restore upper watershed conditions in SF and major tributaries"; and "Restore estuarine and nearshore conditions"
N/A	14-1889	Little Anderson IMW Stream Enhancement- Ph 3	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Summer Chum	Intensively Monitored Watershed Plan: p17- LAnderson Cr. Habitat complexity, sediment routing, water delivery/routing, off-channel habitat, LWD