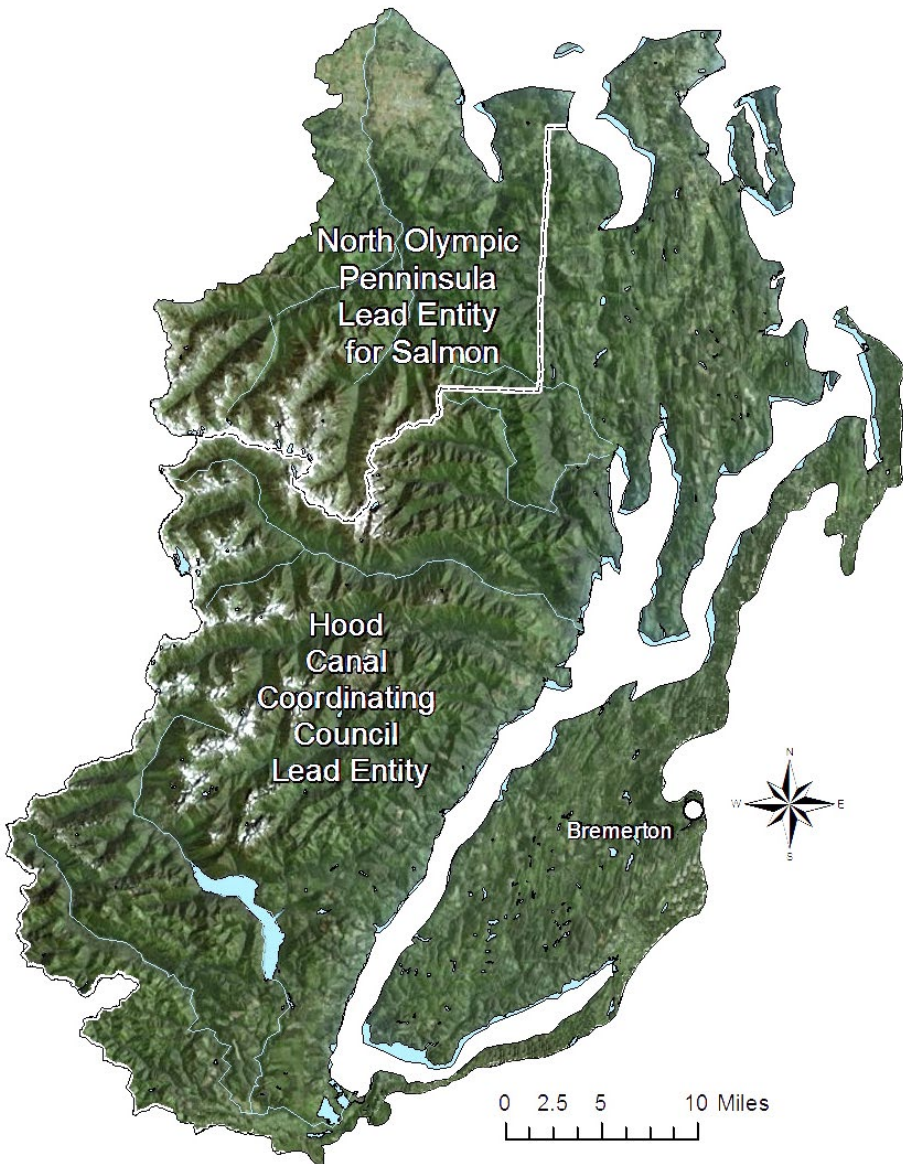


Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region



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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 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 Shelton (14)

Federally Recognized Tribes

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

Salmon Recovery Plan

Table 1. Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region-Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan

Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum 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 Strategy Status	The Hood Canal Coordinating Council and its plan implementation partners are using an implementation strategy, Guidance for Prioritizing Salmonid Stocks, Issues, and Actions for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council with more detailed information on the highest priority recovery plan actions in the HCCC Salmon Recovery Plan Priorities and Immediate Needs for 2023 and Call for Salmon Habitat Projects .
Web Information	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Web Site Salmon Recovery Portal

Endangered Species Act Listings

Table 2. Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region Listed Species

Species Listed	Listed As	Date Listed
Hood Canal Summer Chum	Threatened	March 25, 1999

Region and Lead Entities

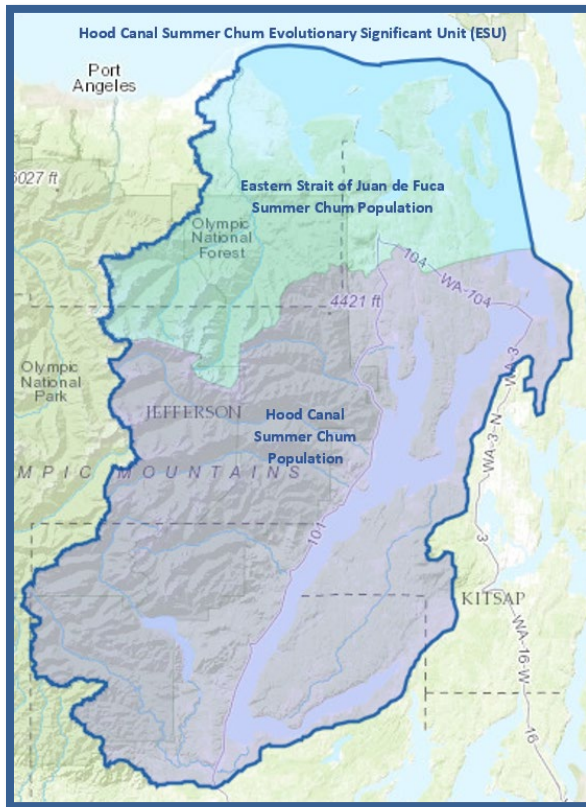


The Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) is the regional recovery organization for Hood Canal and eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon. HCCC is also the Lead Entity covering the Hood Canal summer chum ESU areas encompassed by Mason, Kitsap and Jefferson Counties. The North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon (NOPLE) covers the area of the summer chum ESU area within Clallam County. The HCCC Lead Entity addresses habitat actions for ESA listed species of summer chum and Chinook also benefitting ESA listed steelhead and bull trout.

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 and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) is composed of two population aggregations, Hood Canal and eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca. Within the geographic area supporting each population, is several watersheds with subpopulations of Hood Canal summer chum.



The recovery project implementation for the Hood Canal population is coordinated by the HCCC Lead Entity. Recovery project implementation for the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca population is coordinated by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity, working in collaboration with the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon (NOPLE). Project proposals from the NOPLE Lead Entity area addressing summer chum habitat in Clallam County are coordinated through the HCCC Lead Entity and evaluated and ranked alongside all other Hood Canal salmon projects. NOPLE is represented both on the HCCC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG).

The HCCC Board of Directors approved the [Guidance for Prioritizing Salmonid Stocks,](#)

[Issues, and Actions for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council](#) as guidance for the lead entity process in March of 2015. The regional salmon recovery prioritization guidance focuses salmon recovery project development and evaluation to assure funding is directed toward efforts that make the greatest impact feasible toward salmon recovery in the region.

Criteria considered in the stock evaluation include:

- 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 consider 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

Explain if the projects list(s) submitted in your region funds the highest priority projects. If the highest priority projects were not funded, explain the barriers to implementing the highest priority projects in your region. Do sub-allocations to lead entities limit your region from getting to the highest priority projects?

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council, in September of 2018 released [The Recovery Goal Review and Updated Guidance for the Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon ESU](#) which a review of the existing recovery goals for the Hood Canal Summer Chum evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) and provides guidance for updating the goals from those contained in the recovery plan for the ESU. The updated guidance allows HCCC to create a focused habitat project list that will lead towards recovery and delisting. Recommendations from the updated guidance were used for prioritization refinement to identify actions included in the [HCCC Salmon Recovery Plan Priorities and Immediate Needs, for 2023 and Call for Salmon Habitat Projects](#).

Region-wide, project sponsors submitted their highest priority projects for salmon recovery through the HCCC LE process according to the HCCC Call for Salmon Habitat Projects. There are no sub-allocations to lead entities within the Hood Canal Region.

Technical evaluation by the TAG included assessing the alignment of the proposed projects with prioritization guidance and the Call for Projects. The CAG evaluated proposed priority salmon recovery projects considering HCCC guidance for distribution of lead entity funding across the Hood Canal region considering factors such as: regional priorities, funding availability, cost for benefit received, community support, socio/political and economic implications, education to community of salmon recovery, and likelihood of priority action being achieved.

Projects that align with the *HCCC Salmon Recovery Plan Priorities and Immediate Needs, for 2023 and Call for Salmon Habitat Projects* and the [Guidance for Prioritizing Salmonid Stocks, Issues, and Actions for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council](#) align with the highest priority needs of the region. All projects align with the highest priority needs as a requirement of the Lead Entity process.

Gaps in implementation of the highest priority needs for the region include feasibility studies, watershed assessments, and specific monitoring needs for assessing and updating recovery goals. All of these projects are difficult to fund with current salmon recovery funding mechanisms.

Regional Technical Review Process

Explain how the regional technical review was conducted. What criteria were used for the regional technical review?

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council Board of Directors' [Guidance for Prioritizing Salmonid Stocks, Issues, and Actions for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council](#) provides regional salmon recovery prioritization guidance for salmon recovery project development and evaluation. The basis of the evaluation criteria is laid out in the Guidance by asking four overarching questions about a proposed project:

1. What is the priority level of the highest priority salmonid stock that would benefit from the proposed project?
2. What is the relative importance of the issue (or the priority of that issue) affecting the performance of the stock that a proposed project aims to positively affect by its implementation?
3. What is the relative importance of the action corresponding to a proposed project in its potential for redressing the targeted issue that affects the stock of interest?
4. Do the project merits adequately and logically contribute to the issue affecting the targeted stock while demonstrating the project readiness for funding?

These questions led to the following Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Scoring Criteria:

- Benefit to Salmon: alignment of primary issues affecting targeted stock; project objectives lead to salmon recovery; adequate longevity of benefit.
- Certainty of Success: appropriate and logical project scope, sequencing, and planning efforts; project implementation readiness.
- Cost Effectiveness: justified project expense and benefit relative to cost.

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

The regional and reach-scale technical reviews were conducted by the HCCC Technical Advisory Group (TAG), an HCCC Board of Director appointed group charged with serving as advisory to the HCCC Citizens Committee through the technical evaluation of salmon recovery projects. The Citizens Committee consists of the HCCC Board of Directors and HCCC Citizens Advisory Group (CAG). Table 3 shows the HCCC Citizens Committee Membership including CAG membership and HCCC Board representation. Table 4 provides the members, expertise and affiliation of the TAG.

Table 3: Citizens Committee Membership

Citizen Advisory Group Member	Member Representation
Cheryl Baumann	North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity
Mike Beaulieu	Military Community Interests
Seth Book	Skokomish Tribe
Sarah Fiskén	Jefferson County
Ron Gold	Mason County
Alex Gouley	Skokomish Tribe
Chris Jones	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Rebecca Mars	Environment and Habitat Interest Groups
Greg Nance	Kitsap County
Miranda Ries	Shellfish Industry Interests (Pacific Seafood Hatchery)
Al Scalf	Jefferson County
Linda Streissguth	Kitsap County
Julianna Sullivan	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
HCCC Board of Directors Jurisdiction Representation	
Kitsap County Commissioners	
Jefferson County Commissioners	
Mason County Commissioners	
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Chair	
Skokomish Tribal Leadership Representative	

Table 4: Technical Advisory Group Membership

TAG Member Name	Expertise	Member Affiliation
Lisa Belleveau	Habitat Biologist	Skokomish Tribe
Eric Carlsen	Engineer	North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity
Hans Daubenberger	Habitat & Marine Biologist, Research & Monitory Program Manager	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Carrie Cook-Tabor	Fish Biologist	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Naomi Gebo	Asst. Reg. Habitat Program Manager	WA Fish and Wildlife Service
Brittany Gordon	Natural Resource Coordinator	Kitsap County
Heather Gordon	Ecologist	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Kela Hall-Wieckert	Riparian Ecologist	Mason County
Randy Johnson	Habitat Program Manger	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Marc McHenry	Fish Biologist	US Forest Service
Alex Papiez	Restoration Biologist	Skokomish Tribe
Tami Pokorny	Geomorphologist	Jefferson County
Stephanie Porter Jones	Marine Biologist	Shellfish Industry Interests
Renee Scherdnik	Water Resource Specialist	Kitsap Co Public Works
Robin Senner	NW Natural Resources Program Lead	US Navy Region NW Representative
Laura Street	Biologist	Jefferson County
David Tucker	Engineer	Kitsap County Public Works
Keith Underwood	Fish Biologist, Conservation Manager	Mason County
Jeff Vanderpham	Salmon Habitat Biologist	NOAA Fisheries

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.)

All forwarded projects in 2023 are consistent with the salmon recovery plans and regional salmon recovery prioritization guidance, *Guidance for Prioritizing Salmonid Stocks, Issues, and Actions for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council* which serves as the HCCC Lead Entity Implementation Strategy. Projects submitted through the HCCC Lead Entity must align with the [HCCC Salmon Recovery Plan Priorities and Immediate Needs, for 2023 and Call for Salmon Habitat Projects](#) which highlights the current focused needs for salmon recovery in the region.

Nine projects were reviewed and recommended by the HCCC Citizens Committee to the SRFB for funding, all of which address the highest priorities of actions needed for salmon recovery in the priority watersheds in the region as indicated in the HCCC Call for Salmon Habitat Projects.

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 HCCC Call for Salmon Habitat Projects highlighted the focused needs for the 2023 grant round and eligibility of projects to submit through the 2023 HCCC Lead Entity process. Salmon stocks and actions that were determined to be the highest priority and immediate needs for salmon recovery in the region were determined based on the established priorities defined in: the [Hood Canal & Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan](#), the [Mid-Hood Canal Chinook Recovery Plan](#), the [Recovery Plan for Skokomish River Chinook Salmon 2017 Update](#), and the [Guidance for Prioritizing Salmonid Stocks, Issues, and Actions for the Hood Canal](#)

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

[Coordinating Council](#) and overlaying updated findings in the viability analysis and recommendations from HCCC's [The Recovery Goal Review and Updated Guidance for the Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon ESU](#) including both the Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Populations.

Skokomish Chinook have undergone both a full stock assessment of Chinook and potential for successful recovery of that watershed. In 2017, a substantial update of the Skokomish River Chinook Recovery Chapter was finalized and released for review. Actions identified as the highest priority in the update were used to refine actions needed for Chinook salmon recovery in the Hood Canal region.

The project evaluation process begins with mandatory criteria for all SRFB project proposals to address the 2023 HCCC Call for Projects automatically ensuring projects primarily benefit at least one of the priority species in the region. Refinement of stocks and strategies prioritization is continuing to advise and improve the Hood Canal salmon recovery process.

Addresses cost-effectiveness?

The TAG uses "cost-effectiveness" as one of its three major factors in independently scoring each project. The CAG considers cost-effectiveness, reviewing project cost issues, and considers regional funding levels. The cost-effectiveness criteria assessment determines: whether the project is expensive relative to other projects, the expense is justified, whether funding it would affect funding of other good projects, and the appropriateness of use for the fund source. The TAG also assessed the project cost related to the predicted benefits of implementing the project. This evaluation results in a qualitative analysis for Citizen Advisory Group consideration. Both the TAG and CAG considered project timing and sequencing as a type of cost effectiveness ensuring each project is being implemented in a cost effective and productive manner.

Additionally, 15 percent match funding is required 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 and support of the projects.

Preserves high quality habitat; Sponsored by an organization with successful record of project implementation; Provides benefit to listed and non-listed fish species; Implements high priority project or action in a region salmon recovery plan; Provides match above the minimum requirement; Involves members of the VCC; Sponsored by an entity that is a PS partner, as defined in RCW 90.71.010. Referenced in the "Action Agenda"

Regional Area Summary

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

Project#	Project Name	Primary Sponsor Name	Rank	Project Type	Species Targeted	Other Species
23-1067	Johnson Creek Estuary Acquisition	Great Peninsula Conservancy	1	Acquisition	Chum-Hood Canal, Hood Canal, Threatened	Searun Cutthroat
23-1064	Union Estuary Nearshore Acquisitions	Hood Canal SEG	2	Acquisition	Chum-Hood Canal, Hood Canal, Threatened	Bull Trout
23-1065	Lower Chimacum Creek Mainstem Acquisitions & Rest.	Jefferson Land Trust	3	Acquisition & Restoration	Chum-Hood Canal, Hood Canal, Threatened, Coho-Puget Sound/Strait of Georgia, Species of Concern, Pink-Odd Year, Not Warranted, Steelhead-Puget Sound, West Hood Canal Tributaries, Outside anadromous area	None
23-1063	Duckabush R Oxbow Final Design and Restoration	Hood Canal SEG	4	Restoration	Chum-Hood Canal, Hood Canal, Threatened	Bull Trout
23-1061	Little Quilcene Estuarine Delta Conceptual Design	Hood Canal SEG	5	Planning	Chum-Hood Canal, Hood Canal, Threatened, Steelhead-Puget Sound, West Hood Canal Tributaries, Threatened	Searun Cutthroat
23-1068	Riparian Enhancement & Knotweed Control 2023	Hood Canal SEG	6	Restoration	Chum-Hood Canal, Hood Canal, Threatened	Cutthroat, Lamprey, Rainbow
23-1069	HC Summer Chum Riparian Stewardship 2023	Hood Canal SEG	7	Restoration	Chum-Hood Canal, Hood Canal, Threatened	Cutthroat, Lamprey, Rainbow
23-1062	Brinnon Reach Assessment & Conceptual Design	Jefferson County of	8	Planning	Chinook-Puget Sound, Threatened, Chum-Hood Canal, Hood Canal, Threatened, Steelhead-Puget Sound, West Hood Canal Tributaries, Threatened	Searun Cutthroat
23-1060	Port Gamble Bay Nearshore Restoration Final Design	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	9	Planning	Chinook-Puget Sound, Threatened, Chum-Hood Canal, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Threatened, Coho-Puget Sound/Strait of Georgia, Species of Concern, Steelhead-Puget Sound, East Hood Canal Tributaries, Threatened	Forage fish

Regional Area Summary

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

Project#	Project Name	RecoveryPlanSupport
23-1067	Johnson Creek Estuary Acquisition	Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Program Priorities and Immediate Needs 2023 Call for Salmon Habitat Projects describes how the health of geographic populations of summer chum in Hood Canal are tied to the quality of habitat and resilience of the nearshore and estuary conditions near the natal systems of each of the subpopulations. The project addresses this need in the Big Beef shoreline area. Kuttel, 2003, specifically identifies protection and restoration of Johnson Creek estuary, pg 240.
23-1064	Union Estuary Nearshore Acquisitions	The project's goals are in line with the "Strategic recommendations" section of the referenced document. Lynch cove is identified to have exemplary opportunities for large scale process-based ecosystem restoration and protection in the Hood Canal Sub-basin, due to its nature as one of Puget Sound's largest and most complex coastal inlets.
23-1065	Lower Chimacum Creek Mainstem Acquisitions & Rest.	Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan; addresses a priority action and targets a priority species
23-1063	Duckabush R Oxbow Final Design and Restoration	Hood Canal summer chum are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Per ESA requirements, this recovery plan was developed to provide "site-specific management actions as maybe necessary to achieve the plan's goal for conservation and survival of the species". This plan outlines specific issues on the Duckabush River, where this proposed project would occur. The first listed factor contributing to decline of the species is "Loss of channel complexity.
23-1061	Little Quilcene Estuarine Delta Conceptual Design	Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan; addresses a priority action and targets a priority species
23-1068	Riparian Enhancement & Knotweed Control 2023	Functioning freshwater riparian habitat is critical for Hood Canal Summer Chum during the spawning, egg incubation and emergence life stages. Protecting and restoring riparian buffers, and LWD structures was listed as a priority and immediate need in the Dosewallips River watershed (Pg. 4).
23-1069	HC Summer Chum Riparian Stewardship 2023	Functioning freshwater riparian habitat is critical for Hood Canal Summer Chum during the spawning, egg incubation and emergence life stages. Dewatto River is part of the West Kitsap Ecological Diversity Group; the protection of highly functioning habitat, and continuing with actions ensuring functioning habitat protection was listed as a priority need for 2023 projects (pg 5). The 2018 review recommended continuing restoration to reduce performance gaps for subpopulations.
23-1062	Brinnon Reach Assessment & Conceptual Design	Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan; addresses a priority action and targets a priority species
23-1060	Port Gamble Bay Nearshore Restoration Final Design	The recovery plan gives high priority to nearshore and estuarine actions. Nearshore features are likely to have significant beneficial effects on summer chum salmon performance. Strong consideration is given to assigning high priority to restoration of special nearshore features within geographic range of interest. 2020 HCCC Salmon Recovery Priorities and Immediate Needs Report, Pages 2 and 5. Juvenile salmon depend on shallow nearshore habitats for foraging, migration corridors, and cover from predators. Port Gamble Bay is known to support high densities of small fishes, including juvenile Chinook and chum salmon, as well as abundant zooplankton prey (PGST 2017). The bay is the only east side coastal embayment that is geographically accessible to outmigrating juvenile Hood Canal summer chum salmon from the West Kitsap Conservation Unit and throughout Hood Canal. At the project site, fill, shoreline armor, altered topography and devegetation are limiting factors for migrating juvenile salmon and forage fish habitat that this project aims to address.

Regional Area Summary

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

Project #	Project Name	Sponsor Match %	Funded Projects	Active Projects	Closed Projects	Action Agenda	Action Agenda Desc	Veterans Choice	Veterans Desc
23-1067	Johnson Creek Estuary Acquisition	83	17	1	13	Yes	Near Term Action B.1.1	No	
23-1064	Union Estuary Nearshore Acquisitions	18	73	8	61	Yes	Near Term Action B.1.1	No	
23-1065	Lower Chimacum Creek Mainstem Acquisitions & Rest.	15	16	1	14	Yes	Near Term Action B.1.1	No	
23-1063	Duckabush R Oxbow Final Design and Restoration	18	73	8	61	Yes	Near Term Action B.1.1	No	
23-1061	Little Quilcene Estuarine Delta Conceptual Design	15	73	8	61	Yes	Near Term Action B.1.1	No	
23-1068	Riparian Enhancement & Knotweed Control 2023	17	73	8	61	Yes	Near Term Action B.1.1	Yes	This project does not specifically employ veterans, but the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) often hires military veterans who would be responsible for our riparian plantings and knotweed control.
23-1069	HC Summer Chum Riparian Stewardship 2023	15	73	8	61	Yes	Near Term Action B.1.1	Yes	This project does not specifically employ veterans, but the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) often hires military veterans who would be responsible for on-the-ground planting site stewardship activities.
23-1062	Brinnon Reach Assessment & Conceptual Design	27	13	1	12	Yes	Near Term Action B.1.1	No	
23-1060	Port Gamble Bay Nearshore Restoration Final Design	16	1	0	1	Yes	Near Term Action B.1.1	No	

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.

Review criteria is established based on the priorities defined in: the [Hood Canal & Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan](#), the [Mid-Hood Canal Chinook Recovery Plan](#), the [Recovery Plan for Skokomish River Chinook 2017 Update](#), and the [Guidance for Prioritizing Salmonid Stocks, Issues, and Actions for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council](#). The HCCC Technical Advisory Group reviews according to the following criteria: benefit to salmon, certainty of success, and cost effectiveness.

Reach-Scale Scoring Criteria:

Benefit to Salmon (45%)

Benefit to Priority Stocks, Issues, and Actions

How well does the restoration/planning project proposal address the targeted issue affecting the stock? Considering the percentage of intact habitat and priority of the habitat in the specific location of a proposed protection project, does the value of protection, justify the purchase of the parcel? Are objectives well defined and do they lead to salmon recovery? Is there adequate longevity of benefit from this project?

Certainty of Success (45%)

Project Scope

Is the project scope and scale appropriate to meet its goals and objectives? Does the project design use and remain consistent with most current practices, standards, and/or science?

Sequencing and Planning Efforts

Is the project a component of a collaborative watershed planning effort, or is it integrated or associated with other salmon recovery projects and assessments in the watershed? Is the project sequenced appropriately for the watershed conditions and independent of other actions being taken first? Are the objectives to be implemented within the project scope in the correct sequence?

Implementation Readiness and Support

Is there an adequate level of project proponent and their partners' experience and capability? Are the actions scheduled, funded, and ready to take place with few or no known constraints to successful implementation? Does the project integrate primary stakeholders into planning and include a process to resolve concerns of stakeholders?

Cost Effectiveness (10%)

Cost Effectiveness

Does the project expense appear consistent with the scope of work with costs and effort sufficiently detailed in the proposal to justify the requested spending level?

Cost/Benefit (no score - TAG narrative for CAG evaluation)

Description of the project's benefits in terms of expense to achieve the benefits.

The Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) considered the project list utilizing TAG recommendations while ensuring the project meets funding source requirements, is a good use of public funds, is a priority for salmon recovery according to HCCC regional guidance and has adequate community support for salmon recovery efforts. CAG considerations that affected the ranking of projects this grant round included conversion risk, importance of summer chum habitat, sequencing, and availability of alternative funding sources.

The recommended list of projects as ranked by the CAG based on technical evaluations was then taken to the HCCC Citizens Committee, consisting of the HCCC Board of Directors and the HCCC Citizens Advisory Group. After discussion, the CAG recommended list was approved by the Citizens Committee as presented. The 2023 HCCC Lead Entity Habitat Project List is as follows:

Table 5: 2023 HCCC Habitat Project List



Hood Canal Coordinating Council

2023 HCCC Lead Entity Habitat Projects List				
Rank	PRISM #	2023 Proposed Project Name	CAG Funding Recommendation	Funding Running Total
1	23-1067	*Johnson Creek Estuary Acquisition	\$377,800	\$377,800
2	23-1064	**Union Estuary Nearshore Acquisitions	\$200,000	\$577,800
3	23-1065	Lower <u>Chimacum</u> Creek <u>Mainstem</u> Acquisitions & Rest.	\$333,713	\$911,513
4	23-1063	Duckabush R Oxbow Final Design and Restoration	\$136,772	\$1,048,285
5	23-1061	***Little <u>Quilcene</u> Estuarine Delta Restoration Design	\$250,000	\$1,298,285
6	23-1068	Riparian Enhancement & Knotweed Control 2023	\$209,539	\$1,507,824
7	23-1069	Hood Canal Summer Chum Riparian Stewardship	\$66,602	\$1,574,426
8	23-1062	<u>Brinnon</u> Reach Assessment & Conceptual Design	\$282,178	\$1,856,604
9	23-1060	****Port Gamble Bay Nearshore Restoration Final Design	\$680,000	\$2,536,604
10	23-1064	Union Estuary Nearshore Acquisitions	\$870,439	\$3,407,043

Conditions:

*Project #23-1067, Johnson Creek Estuary Acquisition is conditioned to include all water rights with the acquisition to be used for salmon restoration and recovery purposes.

**Project #23-1064, Union Estuary Nearshore Acquisitions is conditioned to \$200k funding level with priority to smaller parcels with the remainder of parcels to be funded after the remaining projects on the list is exhausted.

***Project #23-1061, Little Quilcene Estuarine Delta Restoration Design, is conditioned to conceptual design only, with consultation with HCCC In Liu Fee program, and associated reduced funding level for these aspects only, up to \$250k.

****Note: The HCCC Citizens Advisory Group is happy to see significant funding from the Washington State Legislature awarded to the scope of work included in the Port Gamble Bay Nearshore Restoration Final Design, Project #23-1060. This allows the Lead Entity to fund other important projects in the region and to further advance our salmon recovery goals.

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

The local & regional technical review team is described under the HCCC regional technical evaluation.

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 final applications and preliminary comment responses. The RCO grants manager, Josh Lambert, also was instrumental in implementing the process and ensuring alignment with RCO processes and protocols. Project sponsors were offered time to get clarification on preliminary SRFB Review Panel comments.

Local Evaluation Process and Project Lists

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

Project sponsors submitted letters of intent in response to the Call for Projects to indicate the project-level feasibility of addressing highest priority salmon recovery actions as defined by the priorities in the [HCCC Salmon Recovery Plan Priorities and Immediate Needs, for 2023 and Call for Salmon Habitat Projects](#) highlighting the focused needs and eligibility for the 2023 grant round. The 2023 call for projects lists the salmon stocks and actions that were determined to be the highest priority and immediate needs for salmon recovery in the region, based on the established priorities defined in: the [Hood Canal & Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan](#), the [Mid-Hood Canal Chinook Recovery Plan](#), the [Skokomish Chinook Recovery Plan](#), and the [Guidance for Prioritizing Salmonid Stocks, Issues, and Actions for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council](#) and overlaying updated findings in the viability analysis and recommendations from HCCC's [Recovery Goal Review and Updated Guidance for the Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon ESU](#).

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?

HCCC staff provided comments on letters of intent submitted in response to the HCCC call for projects and TAG and CAG provided feedback to sponsors during presentations in order for sponsors to incorporate feedback into project applications prior to projects being presented during site visits. Opportunities for project feedback was given during site visits, presentations, and evaluation meetings. Robust project reviews by the TAG and CAG throughout the evaluation process yielded several recommendations for improvement that were incorporated into final project descriptions resulting in increased certainty of success in the implementation of proposed salmon recovery projects. The SRFB Review Panel also provided technical comments after site visits which were addressed in the final proposal attached in PRISM. The HCCC Citizens Committee conducted the policy review and adopted the ranked list as recommended by the Citizens Advisory Group.

During the Technical and Citizens Advisory Group reviews, discussions arose around riparian strategies, protection priorities, restoration alternative approaches, community education on ongoing projects, and stakeholder engagement in the restoration design process. Discussions were broached around risk to summer chum salmon if a project is not funded. The TAG and CAG discussions included in-depth discussions around project sequencing and aligning with complementary processes in the project footprint.

HCCC Citizens Committee including the HCCC Board of Directors were briefed on the TAG and CAG discussions and recommendations. The HCCC Citizens Committee approve the 2023 HCCC Habitat Project List recommendation as presented by the Citizens Advisory Group including the recommended conditions placed on projects.