

**The Department of Ecology's Response to:  
Lincoln Loehr – Heller-Ehrman (Comment 51)**

A request was made in the 2008 listing cycle to determine whether this listing is not meeting D.O. standards due to natural conditions. A TMDL Study is underway in South Puget Sound for D.O., which will provide information that will determine whether there are anthropogenic sources causing a D.O. decrease of more than 0.2 mg/l. This listing will remain on Category 5 until the TMDL is approved, at which time the study information will inform a category decision (either Category 4A or Category 1 for natural conditions).