



Puget Sound Monitoring Consortium

**March-April 2008 updates
to interested parties**

The Problem

- **We need better information**
- **Lots of monitoring and assessment being done by many agencies**
- **Lack of overall coordination and integration**
- **Need a comprehensive, strategic approach to monitoring Puget Sound**

How this Effort Started

- **Initially to address local governments' ambient freshwater monitoring needs**
- **\$800K proviso to create an ongoing monitoring program “similar to Chesapeake Bay or San Francisco”**
- **Tie-in to Puget Sound Partnership**

Where We Are Now

- **Scope broadened to ecosystem**
- **PSP endorsed consortium as the process for building capacity to:**
 - **implement the monitoring components of the Action Agenda, and**
 - **make future updates to the monitoring plan**

Purpose

- **A coordinated monitoring and assessment program will**
 - **Manage, analyze and distribute credible and useful scientific information about the ecosystem**
 - **Inform policy and management decisions for Puget Sound**

How?

- **Build on existing efforts**
- **Include all interested parties**
- **Address key indicators**
- **Integrate watershed, fresh and marine waters at multiple scales**
- **Collect and assemble science information and fill gaps**

Major Activities to Date

- **March 2007 report**
 - **Identified key functions, purpose of a coordinated monitoring program**
 - **Analyzed 17 programs around the country**
- **Fall 2007 developed a list of 7 possible models to emulate and introduced PSP concept**

Major Activities to Date

- **January 2008 direction from PSP**
- **Now focusing on two model options**
 - **Expand & restructure PSAMP at PSP using existing management structures**
 - **Create an NGO that also includes PSAMP and is linked to PSP for policy input**
- **Developing pilot project proposals**



Coming Up

- **Work plan is based on Action Agenda process and schedule**
- **In April:**
 - **Preliminary recommendations to PSP; get more input from them**
 - **Rank pilot project ideas**



Questions?

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Project webpage:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/index.html