

Focus Sheet: 2007 Legislative Session Reflects Giant Step Toward Healthy Puget Sound by 2020

In the 2007 Washington legislative session, Governor Gregoire and the Legislature have taken a giant step forward in the effort to restore Puget Sound.

Building on the 2006 findings and recommendations of the Puget Sound Partnership, the 2007 Legislature passed a comprehensive package of legislation to support on-the-ground and in-the-water results.

The legislature passed the four bills advocated by the Puget Sound Partnership which were:

SB 5372

Establishes the new Puget Sound Partnership to bring focus, coordination and accountability to the many programs that protect the Sound. The new Partnership will oversee development and implementation of the effort to restore and protect Puget Sound by 2020. The Partnership will exercise accountability through performance reviews and by influencing a broad array of funding decisions.

The Partnership consists of:

- *An Action Agenda*, which identifies and prioritizes actions required to restore the Sound by 2020.
- *The Leadership Council*, a seven-member panel appointed by the Governor to lead the Partnership.
- *A Puget Sound Science Panel*, to inform decisions and solutions.
- *An Ecosystem Coordination Board*, which will advise the council on ecosystem-scale restoration.
- *An executive director and staff* to carry out the work.

HB 1024

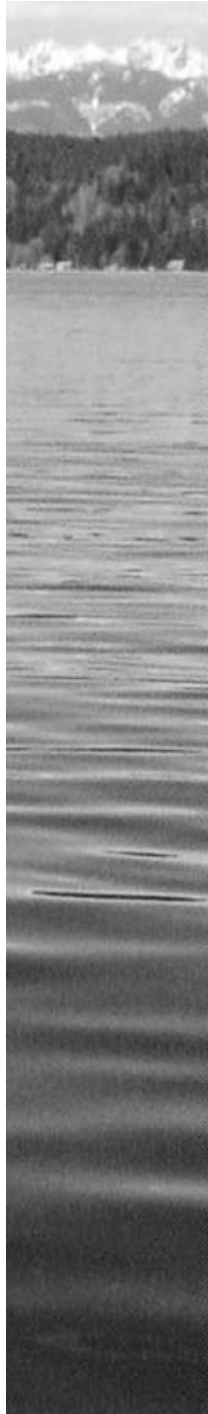
Phases out toxic flame retardants known as PBDE's in consumer products when the departments of Ecology and Health jointly determine that there is a less toxic alternative. Washington's fire fighting professionals also must determine that less toxic alternatives meet fire safety standards.

SB 5778

Requires local governments to implement shellfish protection programs when shellfish beds are polluted.

SB 5894

Directs the state Department of Health to establish standards for siting, design, construction, installation, operation and maintenance of **large on-site sewage systems**.



Hood Canal with the Olympic Mountains in the background.

Additional Bills Passed by the 2007 Legislative Session that Benefit Puget Sound Health

In addition to the bills advocated by the Puget Sound Partnership, the legislature passed numerous bills that contribute to the health of Puget Sound. These bills include the following:

- **HB 1656** creates a Puget Sound research account to focus Puget Sound scientific work and a process for distributing research funds.
- **HB 1761** accelerates the cleanup of Puget Sound and hazardous waste sites around the state through the state's Model Toxics Control Act.
- **HB 2049** authorizes each of the 12 Puget Sound counties to establish a Marine Resource Committee in cooperation with other local governments in the county.
- **HB 2220** directs scientific studies of the effects of geoduck aquaculture on the environment of Puget Sound, and directs Ecology to establish guidelines for appropriate siting and operation of geoduck aquaculture.
- **SB 5552** increases the maximum fine for illegally discharging oil into the waters of the state.
- **SB 5923** limits the introduction and transport of invasive aquatic species.
- **SB 6044** provides funding for removal of derelict vessels from Puget Sound, and allows marina owners to contract with a local government to remove a derelict vessel from marina property.
- **SB 6117** promotes water re-use; requires the state to expand financial support and incentives for capital investment in water re-use; protects existing water rights when a project reduces discharge from a sewage plant into Washington's marine waters.
- **HB 1651** creates a Boating Activities Program that provides funding to State Parks for boater safety, boat education, law enforcement, and boating environmental programs; provides grants to governments and non-profit organizations for increased boating access, boater safety and education, environmental program and law enforcement.

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