



Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot

Mission

“A new cooperative approach to expedite source control, sediment cleanup and associated habitat restoration in Bellingham Bay”

Pilot Work Group

- Port of Bellingham
- City of Bellingham
- Whatcom County
- Lummi Nation
- Nooksack Tribe
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Project Overview

- Bellingham Bay was selected in 1996 by state and federal agencies as the location for a demonstration pilot to explore new ways to clean up contaminated sediments in urban bays of Puget Sound.
- The Pilot was initiated by a grant from Ecology and has been augmented with additional public and private resources.
- The Pilot brings together a cooperative partnership of agencies, tribes, local business and the public – all with a stake in a clean and productive bay.
- The Work Group published a “Comprehensive Strategy” for the Bay in October 2000 which addresses:
 - **Sediment Cleanup** – clean up contaminated marine sediments at sites throughout the bay.
 - **Habitat Restoration** – restore habitat for fish, birds and other aquatic resources.
 - **Source Control** – stop ongoing sources of pollution at the source.
 - **Landuse** – plan for future aquatic and shoreline uses.
- The Strategy is being implemented by the Work Group parties, with some projects already complete.

Available Reference Info:

Project Background
Sediment Cleanup Techniques
Comprehensive Strategy
Aquatic Landuse

Sediment Cleanup and Source Control Sites
Implementing Documents
Habitat and Natural Resources in the Bay
Public Meetings

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For more information: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/blhm_bay/blhm_bay.htm



Pilot Goals and Approach for Working Together

Background

Bellingham Bay provides an abundance of natural resources, recreational opportunities, and an economic base to the Bellingham area. Historically, diverse habitat for fish, wildlife and other aquatic animals was more extensive than it is today. In addition, past waterfront activities such as boat repair, garbage disposal, and pulp, paper, and chemical facilities have resulted in the need to clean up sediments in portions of the bay. The Pilot Study Area includes all of Bellingham Bay. The inner bay is illustrated in more detail to provide an indication of where the known and potential sediment cleanup sites are located.

Pilot Approach

Bellingham Bay was selected by federal and state agencies as a pilot project and potential model for comprehensive environmental actions in urban bays. The Pilot was initially funded by a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology and has been co-managed by Ecology and the Port of Bellingham.

The Pilot team first developed consensus goals (see box) that led to the identification of five project elements – sediment cleanup, sediment disposal siting, source control, habitat restoration, and aquatic land use. A comprehensive strategy that articulates the collective vision of the Pilot team integrates these elements. Priorities within the elements are identified in the strategy to be acted on in the near-term. The Comprehensive Strategy was the basis for a Letter of Agreement in May of 1998 among local, state, and federal agencies (see reverse).

Pilot Goals

Human Health and Safety

Enhance the protection of human health

Ecological Health

Protect and improve the ecological health of the bay

Protect and Restore Ecosystems

Protect, restore, or enhance habitat components making up the bay's ecosystem

Social and Cultural Uses

Implement actions that are consistent with or enhance cultural and social uses in the bay and surrounding vicinity

Resource Management

Maximize material re-use in implementing sediment cleanup actions, minimize the use of nonrenewable resources and take advantage of existing infrastructure.

Faster, Better, Cheaper

Implement actions that are more expedient and more cost-effective through approaches that achieve the multiple objectives of the Pilot.

Economic Vitality

Enhance water-dependent uses of commercial shoreline property.