



# SEATTLE'S SALMON RECOVERY POLICY FRAMEWORK

## Seattle's Salmon Policy Approach:

*The City is committed to the recovery of sustainable, healthy, harvestable salmonid stocks throughout Puget Sound. We also recognize the importance of protecting and restoring necessary habitat function both within the City and outside the City if recovery is to be achieved, and the City seeks to contribute its fair share regionally toward salmonid recovery. The City intends to use a variety of strategies such as habitat restoration and acquisition, incentive programs, and regulations to achieve these goals and to work in partnerships with other stakeholders to develop proposals for applying these strategies where there are significant benefits to salmonids based on sound science. We also recognize the need to manage legal risk to the City. (Council Resolution 30272, January 22, 2001)*

The City of Seattle is within the Puget Sound ESU (Evolutionarily Significant Unit) for chinook salmon, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act on June 8, 1999. These salmonids are known to use various water-courses in the Seattle area including Lake Washington, Lake Union and the Ship Canal, the Locks, the Puget Sound marine nearshore and Shilshole and Elliott Bay, and the Duwamish Waterway. The listing decision regarding this ESU has prompted the City of Seattle to voluntarily take steps toward the protection and ultimate recovery of chinook salmon through public investment, management of service delivery, and regulatory oversight. These actions are being taken with the full awareness that the City's actions must be integrated into regional watershed action planning.

The Seattle City Council expressed strong support for salmon recovery actions prior to the actual chinook listing. The City committed to participating in the Tri-County Process and established an internal process and organizational structure to respond to the needs of threatened chinook salmon. The City evaluated current programs and activities for their impact on fish and fish habitat. It developed and is now implementing work plans to reduce negative impacts and improve habitat conditions and functions throughout the city's aquatic environments.

In November 1998, the Seattle City Council adopted a resolution (29818) to initiate the City's response to chinook listing under the Endangered Species Act. The resolution called on the City to:

- ❑ Pursue 1999 funding recommendations that would increase inspections and enforcement officers to monitor construction sites, industrial discharges, and clearing and grading activities;
- ❑ Actively pursue opportunities to strengthen implementation of the Growth Management Act and cooperation with regional partners to further the goals of the Act;
- ❑ Further review the existing exceptions process as part of the upcoming review of the critical areas ordinance;
- ❑ Expand and/or enhance current use tax assessment incentive programs to engage property owners of riparian lands;
- ❑ Accelerate construction of fish passage improvements at Landsburg, the City's drinking water diversion facility on the Cedar River;
- ❑ Pursue 1999/2000 funding for additional programs to benefit salmon recovery such as
  - ◆ the 1% for conservation program and water reuse programs in the water utility,



- ◆ continuation and expansion of urban creek restoration efforts,
  - ◆ continued correction of combined sewer overflows,
  - ◆ reforestation efforts inside the city limits, and
  - ◆ flow management, fisheries research, and supplementation programs where the City operates hydroelectric facilities.
- ❑ Develop additional Early Response Measures to immediately help chinook salmon and other salmon species by the end of 1998.

In January of 1999, the Seattle City Council again addressed salmon recovery in Resolution 29893, affirming the City's commitment to helping the region restore healthy salmon runs. The Resolution described the following values and principles:

- ❑ The City's goal is to restore healthy, sustainable salmon runs in Puget Sound.
- ❑ The City seeks to maintain healthy ecosystems and integrate multiple objectives related to habitat quality and quantity, land use, and human infrastructure.
- ❑ In its role as a regional water supplier the City is committed to assuring water supply for people and fish, providing certainty for water supply operations, and using available water supplies efficiently.
- ❑ The City is committed to implement an effective growth management strategy so that central city living remains affordable and there are adequate incentives to promote urban infill development in order to concentrate growth in the existing urban areas.
- ❑ The City supports high value ESA investments which are science-based and provide clear benefits to salmon.
- ❑ The City supports collaborative solutions among governmental and private entities throughout the watershed that salmon depend on for various stages of their life cycles.
- ❑ The City will commit to a package of short-term, concrete actions that can be undertaken while a larger, long-term regional plan is being developed.

In March of 1999, the Seattle City Council passed an additional Resolution (29905) regarding the Early Action Proposal which had been developed at Council direction. In this resolution the Council

- ❑ endorsed the Mayor's recommended Early Action proposal as a basis for discussion with National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) through the Tri-County process, and
- ❑ Committed to the development of a Phase II proposal over the next year which would be closely coordinated with inter-jurisdictional watershed planning efforts.

In January of 2001 the Council passed Resolution 30272, reemphasizing and further focusing City support for salmon recovery efforts. The resolution describes specific principles and strategies and encourages continued development of an "urban blueprint" for habitat protection and restoration as well as other information related to public progress reporting and salmon habitat investment criteria. The resolution required the City's Salmon Team to report progress to the Council and seek further guidance beginning in March, 2001.

As directed by Resolution 30272, the Seattle Urban Blueprint for Habitat Protection and Restoration (the Blueprint) explains the City's science methodology and latest research findings and suggests potential preliminary actions that might protect and restore habitat conditions important to salmonids in the major aquatic environments within the City.