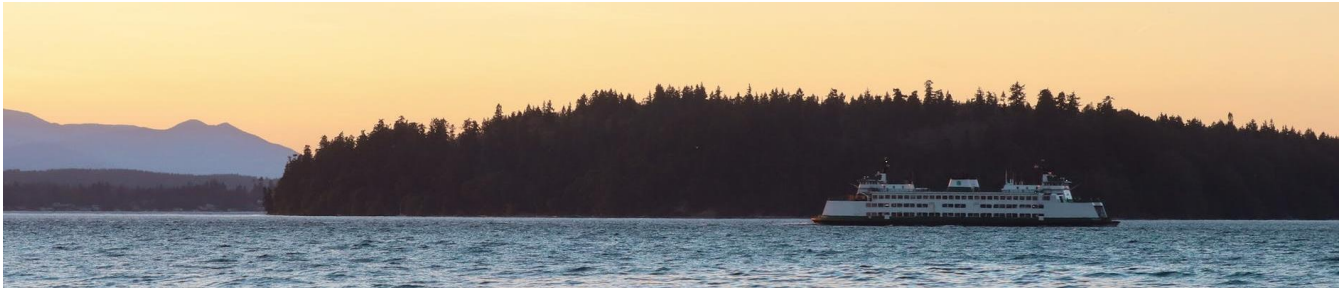


Puget Sound Nutrient Forum Spring Update

May 2021



Is it May already?

As we approach summer of 2021 and, for many of us, over a year of changing working conditions due to COVID-19, we wanted to provide an update to the Nutrient Forum on different elements of the Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Project and the Nutrient General Permit.

Salish Sea Modeling Update

We have updated the timeframe for the Year 1 Modeling Results Tech Memo and now plan to publish this Tech Memo at the end of the summer. The Tech Memo will include the results of the Year 1 Modeling Scenarios, which focus on evaluating both watershed and marine point source reductions in more detail. We worked with the Forum in 2019 to develop the Year 1 Modeling scenarios, which evaluate changes in dissolved oxygen concentrations due to:

- Watershed reductions by region
- Wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) reductions by region
- Annual vs. seasonal reductions at WWTPs
- Future population growth projections
- Combinations of watershed and WWTP reductions

This is an interim analysis on the latest modeling results meant to inform the next round of modeling scenarios to narrow in on combinations of WWTP and watershed reductions needed to meet water quality standards. We look forward to sharing these results with the Forum and getting your input on the next round of model scenarios later this year.

Upcoming Nutrient Forum Meetings

In March 2021, we met to provide some “refresher courses” on the Clean Water Act, regulatory models, and using the Salish Sea model to manage nutrients. All previous Forum presentations and meeting materials are posted on the [Nutrient Forum webpage](#).

We plan to convene the Nutrient Forum in late summer, when the Year 1 Results Tech Memo is ready. We are also planning to host a Forum in early fall to gather your input on Year 2 Salish Sea modeling scenarios.

Nutrient General Permit

We invited public comment on the Preliminary Draft General Permit from January 27- March 15, 2021. You can [view public comments we received](#) on the conceptual approaches proposed in the preliminary draft document.

We will publish a formal draft of the Nutrient General Permit by close of business on June 16, 2021, with the public comment period ending on August 2. We will host two workshops/public hearings during that time:

- July 20 at 9:30am
- July 21 at 5:30pm

The formal draft and meeting information will be posted on the [Nutrient General Permit webpage](#). If you have questions about the general permit, email PSNutrientsGP@ecy.wa.gov.

Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Grant Program

In the end of April, the Legislature passed their budget, which included the Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Grant Program in the 2021-23 Capital Budget for Ecology. We presented on this grant program at the Nutrient Forum meeting in March 2021. This \$9 million grant program will focus on supporting Nutrient General Permit implementation, including operational efficiencies and planning for nutrient reduction improvement.

The budget included proviso language attached to this program that we will use in the development of funding guidelines. The proviso states:

“The department must use the following criteria to evaluate and prioritize eligible municipalities to receive grant funding under this section:

- (1) Location of wastewater treatment facility, prioritizing facilities that are not located within a city with a population of facilities that are not located within a city with a population of 760,000 or more, as reported by the office of financial management pursuant to RCW 43.62.030;
- (2) Age of wastewater treatment facility, prioritizing the oldest eligible facilities; and
- (3) Immediacy of need for grant funding to avoid system failure and higher magnitude of contamination.”

If you have any questions on this grant program, please contact Jeff Nejedly at jeffrey.nejedly@ecy.wa.gov.

Contact Info

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Additional Resources:

- [Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Project webpage](#)
- [Nutrient Forum Meeting Materials](#)
- [Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit webpage](#)
- [Salish Sea Model webpage](#)