

SHORELINE PLANNING STARTS WITH YOU

- Call your local planning department or visit Ecology's website to find out if your town, city, or county is currently updating your local program. Sign up to receive notices.
- Provide input on the public participation plan, a first step in the local update process.
- Participate on an advisory committee.
- Read and provide comments on draft reports, policies, goals, and regulations.
- Attend public meetings and share your knowledge, opinions, and ideas.
- Review and comment on shoreline permits for new and existing uses.
- Learn more about the state Shoreline Management Act and the standards shoreline master programs must meet.

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/smp/citizen.html



Special accommodations: To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program at 360-407-6600. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

SHORELINE TERMS



Guidelines – State regulations (administrative code) that local governments must comply with when writing and carrying out their shoreline master programs.

Ordinary high water mark – A biological vegetation mark along shorelines. It varies from site to site and over time due to factors including wind, waves, erosion, runoff, groundwater, and both natural and human-made changes.

Buffer – Vegetation planted or purposely left in place next to lake, stream, and marine shores. Buffers serve as a barrier against property loss from erosion and help keep sediment and other pollutants from running off into our waters.

No Net Loss – Protecting existing ecological conditions while development of shoreline areas is continued in accordance with adopted regulations. While restoration of degraded areas is encouraged, it doesn't mean all shoreline areas are required to be made "pristine."

Setback – Minimum amount of space required between a home or building and the buffer or water's edge to protect views, property from hazards, and other community values.

Shorelines of statewide significance – Shorelines with special economic and environmental value defined by the state Shoreline Management Act.

CITIZEN GUIDE



SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAMS



www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/smp/citizen.html

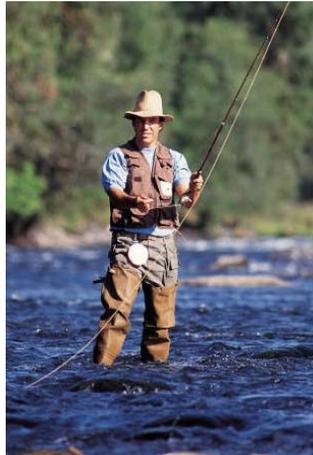
Ecology Publication #12-06-003 (Revised 8/12)

Shorelines are where the land and water meet—the edges of lakes, streams, rivers, and marine waters.

WHY SHORELINES MATTER

Washington has about 28,000 miles of shorelines—more than the distance around the Earth.

Our shorelines include quiet breeding areas for blue-ribbon trout and areas where waves build and carry away beaches. This dynamic nature of our shorelines draws us to the water's edge.



Shorelines are important to the state's economy. We all benefit from having thriving waterfronts made up of ports, marinas, shellfish facilities, and other water-dependent businesses. Fishing, tourism, and recreation provide jobs and income. Planning for our use of shorelines helps preserve what we value, and protects lives and property.

Sharing and caring for shorelines is everyone's responsibility.

Updating a shoreline program is a complex process that can take local governments three years or more. The timeframe is flexible.

WHAT IS A SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM?

Shoreline programs are the local mechanism for carrying out the voter-approved Shoreline Management Act. Shoreline programs help regulate shoreline land use and development.

They are designed to:

- Protect our shoreline areas.
- Provide for the public's enjoyment of public shores and waters.
- Plan for water-dependent uses.

Local shoreline programs include policies, goals, and regulations based on shoreline types and uses. They must meet state laws and rules—but are tailored to meet the needs of each city or county.

Managing our shorelines is a local and state partnership.

State law creates a unique partnership between local governments and the Department of Ecology as co-regulators of Washington's shorelines. Since 2003, Ecology has provided more than \$17 million to local governments to create or update local shoreline programs with public input.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By creatively working together, we will ensure our children and future generations have the beaches, shorelines, and waterways we love so much today.

Most local shoreline programs have not been updated since they were first created in the early 1970s when voters passed the Shoreline Management Act. Washington's population has more than doubled in the last 40 years increasing economic, recreational, and environmental demands on our shorelines.

Over 260 local governments must modernize their shoreline programs by 2014. Once these major updates occur, they must periodically update their programs to be consistent with changes in federal and state laws, local land use decisions, growth, and priorities.



Year One

- Receive state grant funds
- Write public participation plan
- Inventory & describe local shorelines

Year Two

- Write policies, goals & regulations
- Create public access plan
- Assess combined effects of shoreline uses

Year Three

- Develop restoration plan
- Local approval
- State approval

Public Input

Local Shoreline Program