



Coastal & Estuarine Resilience: Case Studies from the Pacific Northwest

Thursday, May 16th, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
2325 Rayburn House Office Building

Congressmembers Suzanne Bonamici, Bill Posey, Rick Larsen and Brian Mast, co-chairs of the Congressional Estuary Caucus, invite you to a luncheon briefing to hear from regional experts and leaders about how collaboration and cooperation among all sectors is combining to enhance the resilience of ecosystems, the restoration of endangered salmon and confront the severe plight of Southern Resident orcas. These species are a central part of the cultural identity, fishing economy and tourism industry of the Pacific Northwest.

Lessons gleaned from this discussion have implications and valuable lessons for estuary restoration along every coast.

By 2025, 75% of Americans will live within 50 miles of a coast. Within this narrow band are estuaries, some of the most productive ecosystems on the planet as well as home to many major cities and Ports. These vital gateways to our oceans are also highly vulnerable to sea level rise, storm inundation and erosion, and loss of critical fish and wildlife habitats. Understanding the risks estuaries face, and the proactive steps being taken to enhance the resiliency of these special places, will be the topic of this briefing.

Come join us to learn more about efforts underway to enhance resiliency in Puget Sound, the Lower Columbia River, and closely related salmon restoration efforts throughout the region.

Lunch from We, the Pizza will be provided by



Agenda

11:30 – Welcome and introductory remarks Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA)

11:40 – Successes and challenges in restoration, resilience and species protection including salmon and orca This overview will include an evocative, visual presentation about the creatures, people, and economy of Puget Sound and the Lower Columbia River.

11:50 – Puget Sound, Lower Columbia River and salmon restoration: challenges, innovations, successes and partnerships Panel discussion on population growth, economic development, environmental degradation, innovation, partnerships, and progress toward recovery and resilience.

Questions? Contact John Shelton, Office of Congressman Bill Posey John.Shelton@mail.house.gov, (202) 225 – 3671

Panelists



Laura Blackmore, Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership

PSP, a Washington state agency, brings together hundreds of partners to mobilize partner action around a common agenda, advance investments in Puget Sound ecosystem recovery, and advance priority actions through supporting partners.



Ron Warren, Assistant Director, Fish Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and perpetuating the state's fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.



Debrah Marriott, Executive Director, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership has been leading ecosystem improvement in the lower Columbia river since 1995. As Executive Director, Debrah focuses on collaborative community-based environmental protection that recognizes the whole system – biologic, chemical, and physical – as well as economic, social and cultural needs.



Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission is a natural resources management support services organization for the 20 treaty Indian tribes in western Washington. NWIFC was created following the 1974 U.S. v. Washington ruling (Boldt Decision) that re-affirmed the tribes' treaty-reserved fishing rights and recognized them as natural resources co-managers with the State of Washington.

Moderator



Dr. Jacques White, Executive Director, Long Live the Kings

Long Live the Kings is a Seattle-based non-profit dedicated to restoring wild salmon and supporting sustainable fishing in the Pacific Northwest.