

CITY OF PORT ANGELES



SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



Introduction:

The City of Port Angeles is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) to comply with the Washington State Shoreline Management Act and current state shoreline management guidelines. The City is dedicated to developing a Shoreline Master Program that not only meets all of the State's requirements, but thoroughly encompasses the thoughts, ideas, and wishes of the citizens of Port Angeles and the region into the plan. The city intends to reach a broad and diverse representation of the local population throughout the SMP update process. The process will be as inclusive as possible.

This public participation plan is an ongoing plan that will adapt to existing circumstances and community needs as determined by the Harbor Planning Committee. The exact timing, actions, and decisions may change throughout the life of the plan.

The State Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 RCW) established in 1971, establishes a cooperative relationship between local governments and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The law has 3 main purposes:

- Encourage reasonable and orderly development of shorelines, with an emphasis on water-dependent and related uses that control pollution and prevent damage to the natural environment.
- Protect the natural character of Washington shoreline, the land, vegetation, wildlife, and shoreline environment.
- Promote public access and provide opportunities to enjoy views and recreational activities in shoreline areas.

The Department of Ecology has provided shoreline master program guidelines to local governments outlining the essential element their individual shoreline master programs must address to comply with the Shoreline Management Act. There are 3 basic policy areas the Shoreline Management Act must address: shoreline use., environmental protection, and public access. Shoreline Master Programs are important because they establish each community's goals for its shoreline areas and implement policies and regulation to:

- Help protect water quality for the city's marine waters
- Increase protection of lives and property from flood and landslide damage.
- Protect critical habitat as well as fish and wildlife.
- Promote recreational opportunities in shoreline areas.

The geographic scope of the Port Angeles Shoreline Master Program update includes approximately 13 miles of marine shoreline within the city limits (including both shores of Ediz Hook) and approximately 2.25 miles of marine shoreline located in the Easter Urban Growth Area to near Morse Creek.

Objectives of the Public Participation Plan:

The City of Port Angeles recognizes that early and continuous public participation is critical to the update and ultimately successful implementation of the SMP. All public outreach and public events related to SMP development will be documented.

- Keep public and stakeholders informed of the Shoreline Master Program update process activities and benchmarks, and the current content of draft document.

- Provide opportunities throughout the SMP update process for public comment, input and participation into the content of the SMP. Opportunities for public comment shall take advantage of the most effective methods and appropriate points in time to ensure optimum use of the public's time.
- Be transparent and inclusive to ensure that all public input is incorporated into the decision making process and to respond to input that is received.
- The public outreach and participation plan will be adaptive and respond to changing conditions or unforeseen circumstances in a manner appropriate to situations to provide a resilient process that functions well throughout the entire process.

Outreach Strategies:

- Efforts will be made to explain that citizen input is an essential part of the SMP planning process.
- Provide regular opportunities and strategies for public involvement and input into the process by identifying and establishing regular and predictable opportunities for public input. Public will be involved at the earliest possible opportunity.
- The City will expand its web site to include up to date information on the SMP update process, schedule, activities, and products.
- Regular public meetings will be scheduled at significant points in the process to inform citizens and seek input into the process. Notice of such meetings or events will be published in the Peninsula Daily News at least one week in advance of the meeting date.
- Information regarding the SMP update process may be included with city utility bills on a periodic basis.
- The city will provide the local newspaper (Peninsula Daily News) with regular Public Service Announcements and press releases at significant points in the process.
- Radio interviews with the local radio station (KNOP) will, at significant points in the process, will include the SMP update as a primary topic to be discussed. (City staff is regularly interviewed by KNOP on a variety of topics)
- Public hearings will be scheduled at appropriate times during the process (including SEPA review, approval of draft sections, etc.) prior to SMP adoption as required by law. Official notices of public hearing dates will be published in the Peninsula Daily News (newspaper of general circulation) at least one week prior to the public hearing date.

Standing Committee and Advisory Teams

One Standing Committee will be established to assist in the development of the Shoreline Master Program. The Stakeholder group has been formed and has begun regularly scheduled monthly meetings. (This group is also be taking on similar responsibility for the City's update of its Harbor Resource Management Plan).

Stakeholder Group (Elected officials will be invited to quarterly meetings (or as needed) to keep them appraised of progress)

- Port on Port Angeles
- Coast Guard
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Department of Natural Resources
- Clallam County
- Department of Ecology (ex-officio)

Advisory Team Participants (Potential participants)

Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Marine Resource Committee (MRC)

Timber interest

Commercial Fishing interest

Industry (Nippon etc.)

Recreation groups (Trails coalition, Divers, kayakers, pleasure boaters, sport fishers....)

Puget Sound Partnership

Environmental interests

Business and Property owners

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold public meetings throughout the SMP update process and regular reports will be made to the Planning Commission regarding the progress made to date. Those update reports will occur at important points in the process.

- Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report
- Preliminary Restoration Planning Report
- Consistency Review Report
- Community Visioning Report
- Preliminary Draft SMP Elements (goals, policies, environmental designations.
- Integration Strategy Report
- Cumulative Impact/No Net Loss Analysis

City Council

The City Council will be updated by staff at appropriate points in the process and will hold public meetings as required. All City Council meetings are open to the public with official notice provided. Agenda items are published and available on the City web site.

Methodology for documenting the plan's implementation

All public comments received by the City of Port Angeles regardless of method of communication, time communication is received, or from whom the communication is received will be logged and recorded. All written and e-mail comments will be kept in the file as a hard copy. Telephone conversations will be noted on an on-going log.

Schedule for public comments/input:

A logical sequence of data gathering and dissemination will guide the public participation effort. The first step will be to complete the required inventory and characterization (I&C) of the shoreline resource. Once that information is gathered, a major outreach effort will be undertaken. The public will be asked to comment on the I&C and provide their individual vision of the future shoreline uses based on the I&C. Those comments will be formulated into a public vision document. That Vision Document will then be presented to the public for revision or endorsement.

A second salient point in the process will be the drafting of a Restoration Chapter for the SMP. This is now a requirement of the Shoreline Management Act and will be included in the final SMP. Shoreline restoration areas will be largely based on the result of the inventory and characterization report as well as results of public input.

The public vision will become a foundation piece of the Draft Shoreline Master Program (DSMP) and the Harbor Resource Management Plan. Prior to submitting the DSMP for

formal agency review, the public will once again be asked to review and comment on the DSMP.

At each major phase transition point, a public meeting to inform public of process and progress will be scheduled. It is anticipated that since county residents visit and use shoreline areas within the City and that City residents visit and use county shoreline areas, there will be overlap of interests. Participation and coordination with the Clallam County SMP update process will be undertaken by the city and encouraged for public participants in the City process.

As the SMP update process proceeds, regular updates will be provided to the Planning Commission, which are open to the public and also provide an opportunity for public comment. These updates will occur no less than semi-annually. All opportunities for public comment will follow statutory public notice requirements.