



# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

## **Port Angeles Harbor Sediment Investigation**

**Port Angeles, Washington**

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**Prepared by**  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan to promote meaningful community involvement during the Port Angeles Harbor Sediment Investigation. This plan describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about site activities and identify opportunities for the community involvement.

Ecology will be investigating the extent and possible sources of toxic pollution in Port Angeles Harbor. As part of this process, Ecology will look at:

- Gaps in the current understanding of pollution in Port Angeles Harbor.
- The nature and extent of pollution in harbor sediments.
- How sediments and bottom currents move through the harbor.
- “Fingerprinting” pollutants to determine where they came from.
- Human and ecological risk of contaminants of concern.

The draft Sampling and Analysis Plan describes the proposed locations and methods for studying harbor sediments. This document will be available for public review and comment. A Sediment Investigation Report, including human health and ecological risk assessments, will also be made available for public comment at the end of the project.

## **LOCATION AND AREA BACKGROUND**

Port Angeles Harbor is located in Clallam County, on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, in the northern part of the Olympic Peninsula (see page 6 for maps). The Port Angeles Harbor Sediment Investigation will cover a large area, with sediment samples being taken at over 100 locations around the harbor.

### **Area Background**

Port Angeles Harbor has a long history as an important cultural area for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and later, as a busy industrial and shipping hub. Previous sampling has shown that the harbor is now contaminated with many toxic substances, and with wood waste. Possible sources include

- Local industries.
- Storm water and other runoff from streets and roads.
- Combined sewage outfalls.
- Wood-burning stoves and burn barrels.
- Vehicle emissions.
- Leaking storage tanks.
- Municipal garbage incineration.

Ecology has several ongoing cleanup projects in the area, including:

- Rayonier Port Angeles Mill site
- Port of Port Angeles Marine Trades Area site
- Unocal Bulk Plant #0601 site

## **Sediment Investigation Activities**

Ecology has been working with a contractor to plan the harbor-wide sampling effort. Scientists will be going out on a boat to collect sediment and tissue samples over a one-month period. These samples will take several months to analyze in a laboratory. Analysis includes a “fingerprinting” process for helping to determine possible sources of contamination. Once the Sediment Investigation Report and Risk Assessments are complete, Ecology will determine the next steps.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the MTCA activities planned for this site. This section of the plan addresses how Ecology will share information and receive public comments and community input on the site activities.

Ecology uses a variety of activities to increase public participation in the investigation and cleanup of MTCA sites. Ecology will use input provided by the community whenever possible.

The following is a list of the public involvement activities that Ecology will use, their purposes, and descriptions of when and how they will be used during the Port Angeles Harbor Sediment Investigation.

### **Public Comment Periods and Public Review**

Comment periods are the main way Ecology gets feedback from the public on investigations like this. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required at key points during the investigation, before final decisions are made.

During a comment period, the public can comment in writing. Verbal comments are taken if a public hearing is held. After formal comment periods, Ecology reviews all comments received and may respond in a document called a Responsiveness Summary.

Ecology will consider the need for changes or revisions based on input from the public. If significant changes are made, then a second comment period may be held. If no significant changes are made, then the draft document(s) will be finalized.

A public comment period will be held for the draft Sampling and Analysis Plan—Ecology’s plan for sampling the harbor. The Sediment Investigation Report and Risk Assessments will be made available for public review.

### **Public Meetings and Hearings**

Public meetings may be held at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. Ecology also may offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community. A public meeting will also be scheduled if ten or more people request one.

### **Information Repositories**

Information repositories are places where the public may read and review site information, including documents that are the subject of public comment.

Ecology has established two repositories for the Port Angeles Harbor Sediment Investigation:

- Port Angeles Library, 2210 South Peabody Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362. 360-417-8500
- Peninsula College, 1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd., Port Angeles, WA 98362. 360-417-6280
- Washington State Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98516. Please call (360) 407-6045 for an appointment.

Site information also will be posted on Ecology's Web site at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/portAngelesHarborSed/paSed\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/portAngelesHarborSed/paSed_hp.htm).

### **Site Register**

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly Site Register to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods, as well as many other activities. To receive the Site Register in electronic or hard copy format, contact Linda Thompson at (360) 407-6069 or by e-mail at [Ltho461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Ltho461@ecy.wa.gov).

It is also available on Ecology's web site at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub\\_inv/pub\\_inv2.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html).

### **Mailing List**

Ecology is compiling a mailing list for the site. It includes individuals, groups, public agencies, elected officials, private businesses, and other known interested parties. The list will be maintained at Ecology's Southwest Regional Office and will be updated when individuals request to be added or removed.

Ecology is sending out a large mailing about Toxics Cleanup Program investigation and cleanup activities in Port Angeles. The mailing will target residents, property owners, and business owners within a half mile of Port Angeles harbor. They may call or e-mail to opt in to the mailing list.

Please contact Hannah Aoyagi at (360) 407-6790 or by e-mail at [haoy461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:haoy461@ecy.wa.gov) if you would like to be involved or have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

### **Fact Sheets**

Ecology will mail fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Port Angeles Harbor Sediment Investigation to inform them of public meetings and comment opportunities and important site activities. Ecology also may mail fact sheets about the progress of site activities.

### **Web Site**

The Port Angeles Harbor Sediment Investigation Web site will have information about public comment periods, investigation progress, and future work.

**Newspaper Display Ads**

Ecology will place ads in the Peninsula Daily News to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for the site.

**Plan Update**

This public participation plan may be updated as the project proceeds. If an update is necessary, the revised plan will be submitted to the public for comment.

**Contacts**

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the Sediment Investigation, please contact:

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## GLOSSARY

**Comment Period:** A time period during which the public can review and comment on various documents and proposed actions. For example, a comment period may be provided to allow community members to review and comment on proposed studies or draft reports.

**Contaminant:** Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels

**Information Repository:** A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents available for public review. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents such as a public school, city hall, or library.

**Public Notice:** At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

**Public Participation Plan:** A plan prepared to encourage coordinated and effective public involvement designed to the public's needs at a particular site.

**Responsiveness Summary:** A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by Ecology during a comment period on key documents, and Ecology's responses to those comments. The responsiveness summary is especially valuable during the Cleanup Action Plan phase at a site when it highlights community concerns.

**Risk:** The probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in the exposed humans or living organisms.

**Sediments:** Settled particles located at the bottom of a lake, river or in wetlands. Sediment(s) also includes settled particulate matter exposed by human activity (e.g., dredging) to the biologically active aquatic zone or to the water column.

**Toxicity:** The degree to which a substance at a particular concentration is capable of causing harm to living organisms, including people, plants and animals.

