

Port Angeles Harbor Sediments Investigation



Toxics Cleanup Program

April 28, 2008

Draft Sampling and Analysis Plan Available for Public Comment



A PUGET SOUND INITIATIVE site - Reaching the goal of a healthy, sustainable Puget Sound now and forever.

Investigating Pollution in the Harbor

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is planning a study of pollution in the sediments of Port Angeles Harbor. Past sediment sampling has shown that levels of several toxic chemicals exceed state cleanup standards.

This study will look at:

- Gaps in our current understanding of pollution in the harbor.
- The nature and extent of pollution in harbor sediments.
- How sediments and bottom currents move throughout the harbor.
- “Fingerprinting” pollutants to determine where they came from.
- The human health and ecological risk of the contaminants of highest concern.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You are invited to review and comment on the **Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)** for the Port Angeles Harbor pollution study. The box to the right has information about where you can find the SAP and how to submit your comments. The **Public Participation Plan** is also available for comment.

Ecology welcomes your comments and additional information you have about local history and potential sources of pollution in Port Angeles Harbor. **Please submit your comments April 28 to May 29, 2008.**

Background

Port Angeles Harbor (see map on page 3) is one of several Puget Sound bays being targeted for priority cleanup by the Puget Sound Initiative. Ecology is using special funding from this initiative to investigate sediment pollution and develop a strategy for cleaning up the harbor.

Comments Accepted

April 28 through May 29, 2008

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Cynthia Erickson - Project Manager
WA Department of Ecology
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6361
E-mail: ceri461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Contact:

Hannah Aoyagi
Phone: (360) 407-6790
E-mail: haoy461@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Port Angeles Public Library
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 417-8500

Peninsula College
1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd.
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 417-6280

**WA Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office**
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only:
Contact Debbie Nelson,
dene461@ecy.wa.gov or
(360) 407-6365

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/portAngelesHarborSed/paSed_hp.htm

Port Angeles Harbor Sediments Investigation

There are many types of pollutants in the Port Angeles Harbor that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. These pollutants also threaten fisheries, shellfish beds, and the people that depend on them.

- **Wood debris** and pilings can be coated with toxic treatments, such as **creosote**, that leach out into the water. Decomposing wood often removes oxygen from the benthic (bottom) marine environment. Decomposition also produces ammonia and sulfides, which are harmful to plants and animals.
- **Dioxins** and **furans** are toxic chemicals that can cause cancer and may cause reproductive and developmental effects. They are stored in fatty tissues and accumulate as they move up the marine food chain. They come from natural and manmade sources, such as:
 - ⇒ Forest fires.
 - ⇒ Burning seawater-soaked wood.
 - ⇒ Garbage burning.
 - ⇒ Industrial incinerators.
 - ⇒ Chlorine bleaching.
 - ⇒ Other industrial processes.
- **Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)** also accumulate in the marine food chain. These toxins pose a risk to humans eating fish from the harbor, and to organisms living in the harbor.

Banned in 1977, PCBs were once used as coolants and lubricants in electrical equipment. Because of their stability, however, these chemicals still persist in the environment. Their health effects are similar to those of dioxins.

What happens next?

Ecology will consider and respond to all comments on the draft Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP). A **responsiveness summary** and the final SAP will be made available at the locations

listed on page 1 and to those who submitted comments.

Ecology plans to begin the harbor-wide study in late May of 2008. Sediment samples will be taken from locations throughout the harbor, and sent to laboratories for analysis. This analysis will take several months.

See Figure 1 (below) for the investigation schedule. You can also check the Ecology Web site for periodic updates:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/portAngelesHarborSed/paSed_hp.htm.

The final report will be available to the public during the spring of 2009. This report will help Ecology plan how to clean up Port Angeles Harbor.

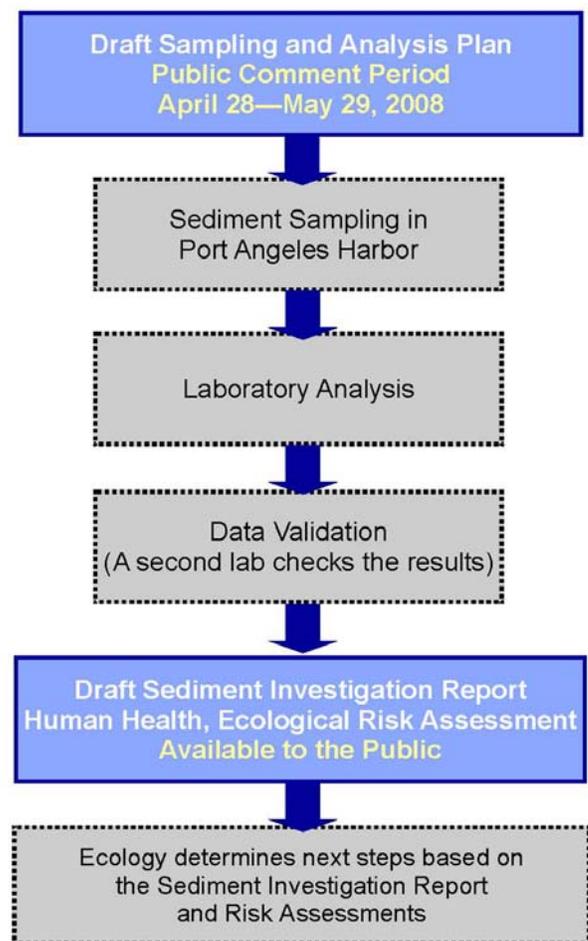
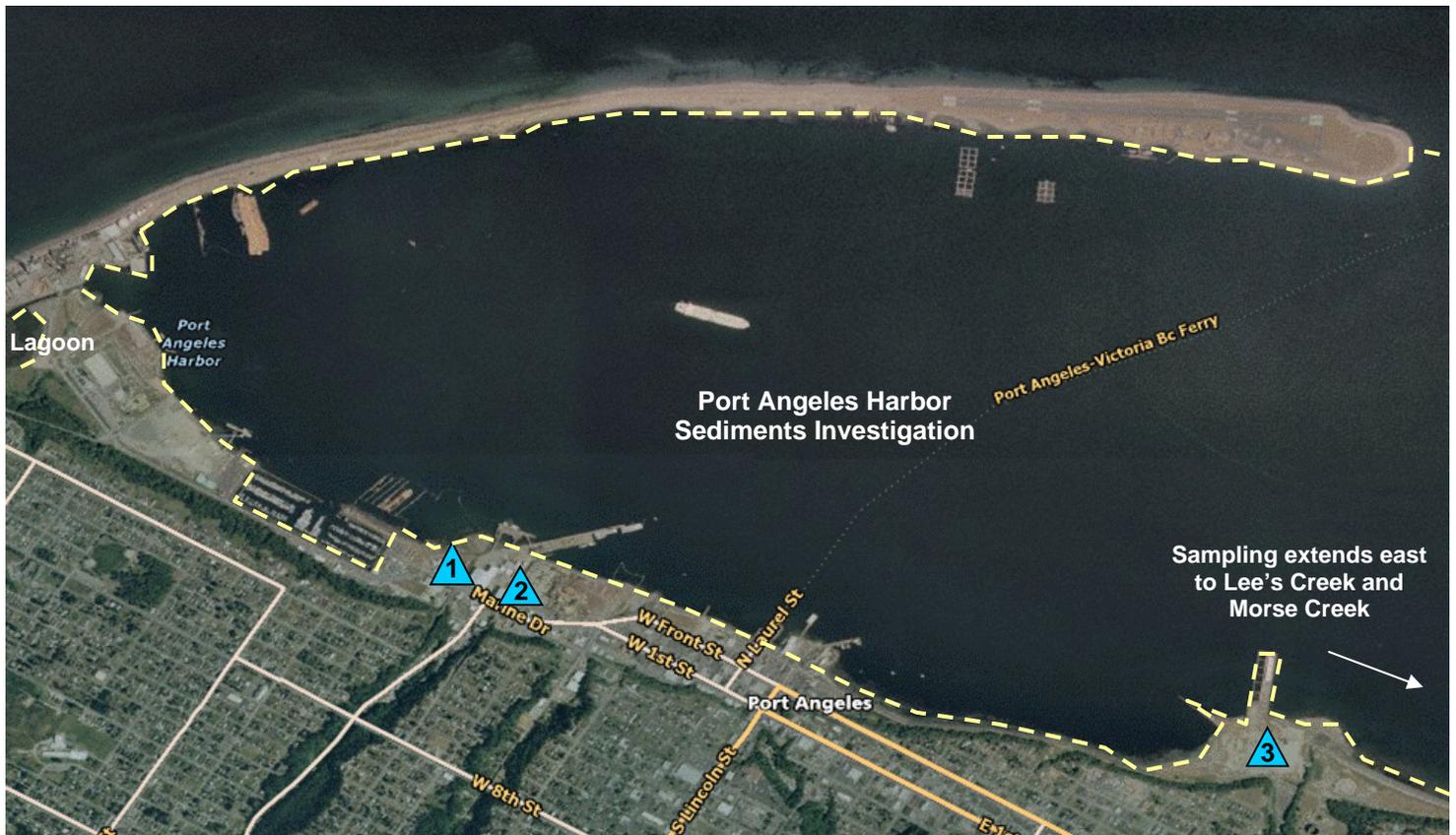


Figure 1. Steps in the Port Angeles Harbor Sediment Investigation process and public involvement opportunities

Port Angeles Harbor Sediments Investigation

Port Angeles Harbor satellite map – Sediment samples will be taken from waters within the dashed line, which includes the lagoon area to the far left of the map and east to Lee's Creek and Morse Creek.



More Cleanup and Investigation Work in Port Angeles

- 1 Unocal Bulk Plant #0601
- 2 Port of Port Angeles Marine Trades Area
- 3 Port Angeles Rayonier Mill
- 4 Rayonier Mill Off-Property Dioxin Study (near to and downwind from the Rayonier Mill site)

For more information about these cleanup sites and investigations, please visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/psi/portAngeles/psi_portAngeles_bay.html.



Port Angeles Harbor Sediments Investigation Clallam County, WA

Ecology Seeks Public Comment on Draft Sampling and Analysis Plan

Public Comment Period:
April 28 through May 29, 2008

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call reception at (360) 407-6300. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341

Public Open House Tuesday, May 13th, 2008

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Peninsula College, room J-47 at 1502 East Lauridsen Blvd., Port Angeles, phone: (360) 417-6255

Come learn about the Port Angeles Harbor Sediments Investigation.

6:30–7:00 p.m.	Open House
7:00–8:00 p.m.	Presentation Question & Answer Session
8:00–8:30 p.m.	Open House

Ecology staff will be available to answer your questions and assist with public comments.

