

Final Report Complete

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed a study of regional background levels of contaminants in marine sediments of the north Olympic Peninsula. The study area extends from Port Angeles to Port Townsend.

These regional background levels can be used to set sediment cleanup levels, inform cleanup decisions, and identify potential areas that may require cleanup in the future.

Ecology will use this study to implement the Sediment Management Standards (SMS), which is the state's cleanup rule for sediments.

Natural vs. Regional

Because some contaminants have natural sources (for example, dioxins can come from volcanic eruptions), even a “pristine” area might not be free of some chemicals. The amount that occurs naturally is called natural background. We established natural background for the North Olympic Peninsula in 2013, and the report can be found on the website (see box to the right).

If we removed or treated enough contamination to return a cleanup site to natural background levels, that site could be recontaminated by diffuse, non-point sources of pollution like car exhaust or stormwater runoff. The amount of contamination that occurs from these non-point sources is called regional background.

Sources of data

Background levels of contaminants can vary between regions around the state. To find the north Olympic Peninsula regional background, Ecology took sediment samples from many bays: Dungeness, Sequim, Discovery, and Port Townsend (see map below).

Samples from Dungeness Bay showed that contaminants there were within the range of natural background, so Dungeness Bay was removed from the calculation of regional background.

Results

The amount of carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs) found in other bays did not reflect the urban growth and industrial history of Port Angeles Harbor. Therefore, Port Angeles Harbor has a different regional background cPAH value. To find out more about the regional background results, please attend our technical workshop April 27th.



You're Invited! Technical Workshops April 27, 2016

Port Angeles

Elwha Heritage Training Center
401 E First St, Port Angeles
5:30—7:00 PM

Port Townsend

Fort Worden
200 Battery Way, Port Townsend
11:30—1:00 PM

See back for more details.

Send Questions To:

Peter Striplin, Project Manager
WA Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6267
Peter.Striplin@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Questions:

Megan MacClellan
Public Involvement Coordinator
Phone: (360) 407-0067
Megan.MacClellan@ecy.wa.gov

Final Report available for review at these locations:

Ecology's Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503
By appointment only:
Contact Susie Baxter,
PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov,
or (360) 407-6365

N. Olympic Peninsula Regional Background Website

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/portAngelesHarborSed/background.html



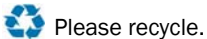
DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Save paper and join our email list!

Please send an e-mail to
mmac461@ecy.wa.gov to let us know
the mailing address you would like
removed.



Regional Background Study North Olympic Peninsula

Clallam County, WA and
Jefferson County, WA

**Final Report available for review, see
inside for review locations.**

¿Habla Español? Si necesita esta
información en español, contáctenos a
preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.

To request ADA accommodation in-
cluding materials in a format for the visu-
ally impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407
-6300.

Persons with impaired hearing may call
Washington Relay Service at 711. Per-
sons with speech disability may call TTY
at 877-833-6341.

You are invited! Technical Workshop

Ecology invites you to a workshop to:

- Present the Regional Background Final Report.
- Answer your questions about the study.

Port Angeles

April 27, 2016, 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Elwha Heritage Training Center, Eagle's Nest Room
401 E. First St., Port Angeles

Port Townsend

April 27, 2016, 11:30—1:00 p.m.

Fort Worden
200 Battery Way, Port Townsend