



DATE: November 18, 2009

TO: Chair Sheffels, Members of the Planning Commission

FROM: Michael Paine, Environmental Planning Manager, DSD, 452-2739  
Heidi Bedwell, Associate Planner, DSD, 452-4862  
David Pyle, Senior Planner, DSD, 452-2973

SUBJECT: Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update—Bellevue File # 07-122342 AC

## **INTRODUCTION**

At the November 18 meeting of the Planning Commission, US Fish and Wildlife researcher Roger Tabor, will present results from his 14 years of research in the Lake Washington basin. Recent projects include movement patterns of Chinook salmon smolts, smallmouth bass, and northern pike minnow; nearshore habitat use of juvenile Chinook salmon in lakes; predation of juvenile sockeye salmon and Chinook salmon by predatory fishes; and distribution, habitat use, and diet of freshwater sculpin.

He will be followed by Jose Carrasquero, a Principal Scientist with Herrera Environmental Consultants. Mr. Carrasquero has 21 years of experience in the Puget Sound region and expertise includes feasibility studies for nearshore restoration projects. It also includes developing conceptual designs based on scientific understanding of physical habitat forming and ecological processes as well as the life history and biological requirements of target species.

Mr. Carrasquero will be joined by Jeff Parsons, a coastal geomorphologist with more than 15 years of both applied and research experience. Dr. Parsons brings an interdisciplinary approach to the solution of complex environmental problems by drawing on his diverse background in civil engineering, geology, and oceanography. He has broad experience in doing feasibility studies for restoration in a variety of settings, and provided scientific input to planning decisions.

## **NEXT STEPS**

For the December 9 study session, staff has organized a panel presentation with representatives from a range of federal, state and regional agencies whose goals and program objectives may overlap with the Shoreline Management Act. A representative of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe may also attend. This presentation will assist the Commission to develop the context and understanding necessary to take into account the wider statewide interest required by the Shoreline Management Act.

This statewide interest is reflected directly in the Shoreline Management Act (SMA); Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish are designated in RCW 90.58.030 as Shorelines of Statewide

Significance. This raises their status in two ways. First, the SMA sets specific preferences for uses of shorelines of statewide significance, including preference for the statewide interest over the local interest, preservation of the natural character, long-term benefit over short-term benefit, protection of resources and ecology, public access to publically owned areas, and increased recreational opportunity. Second, the SMA calls for optimum implementation of its objectives on shorelines of statewide significance. Optimum implementation involves special emphasis on statewide objectives and consultation with state agencies, including a focus on identifying, understanding, and managing ecosystem-wide processes and ecological functions that sustain resources of statewide importance.

A consequence of this direction in statute is specific guidance in the Washington State Shoreline Master Program Guidelines (Guidelines) aimed at emphasizing statewide interest, preserving resources for future generations, ensuring long-term protection of ecological resources of statewide importance, such as anadromous fish habitat, forage fish spawning and rearing areas, and other unique environments, and providing for water-oriented uses and public recreation.

Staff has asked that each representative give a short presentation on agency programs and objectives and their potential overlap with the objectives of the SMA; what each agency would like to see in our SMP update; and, what outcomes, if any, each agency feels are most important in terms of managing the resources under the jurisdiction of the SMA.