



PEOPLE
FOR
PUGET
SOUND

pugetsound.org



How to Save Puget Sound

Kathy Fletcher
Exec. Dir., People For Puget Sound
March 11, 2008



People For Puget Sound

Mission: to protect and restore Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits--our living waters, the land and our common future.



We use the tools of:

- Science
- Education
- Advocacy
- Involvement



Getting to scale--all around the Sound

Turning this . . .

Into this







The Nature Conservancy
OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
35 YEARS
PROTECTING OUR LAND, AIR AND WATER

PEOPLE FOR PUGET SOUND
People for Puget Sound
www.peoplesound.org

NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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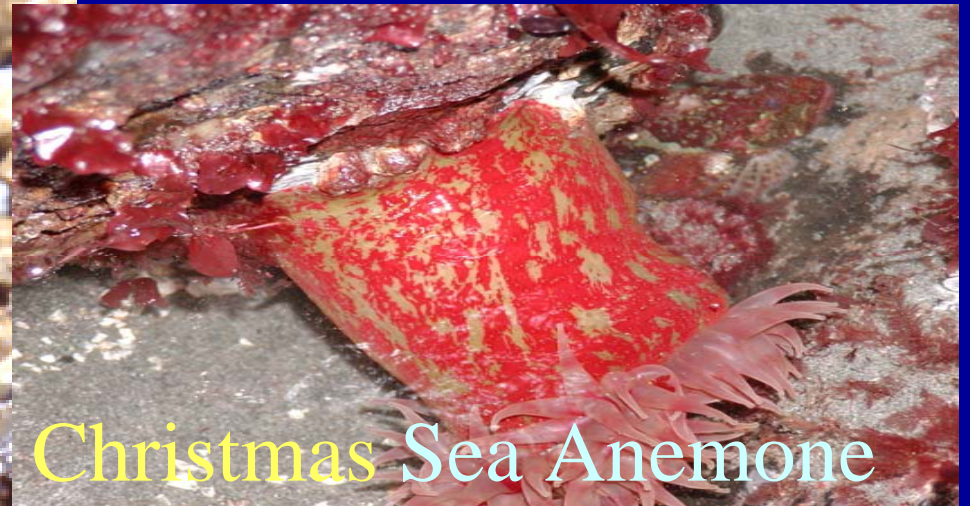
Neah Bay rescue tug

We work in partnerships

- The Alliance for Puget Sound Shorelines
- Priorities for a Healthy Washington
- Northwest Straits Commission and MRCs
- Puget Sound Environmental Caucus
- And many more!



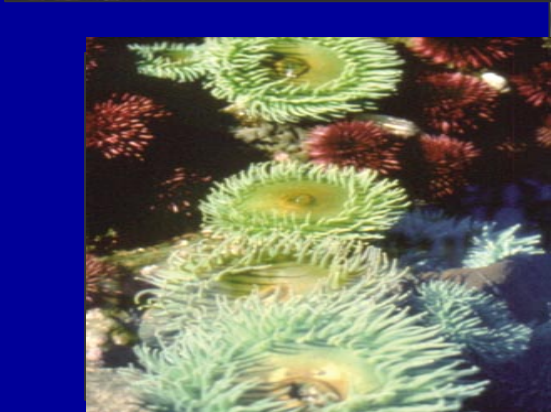
Amazing biodiversity



Everything eats something...

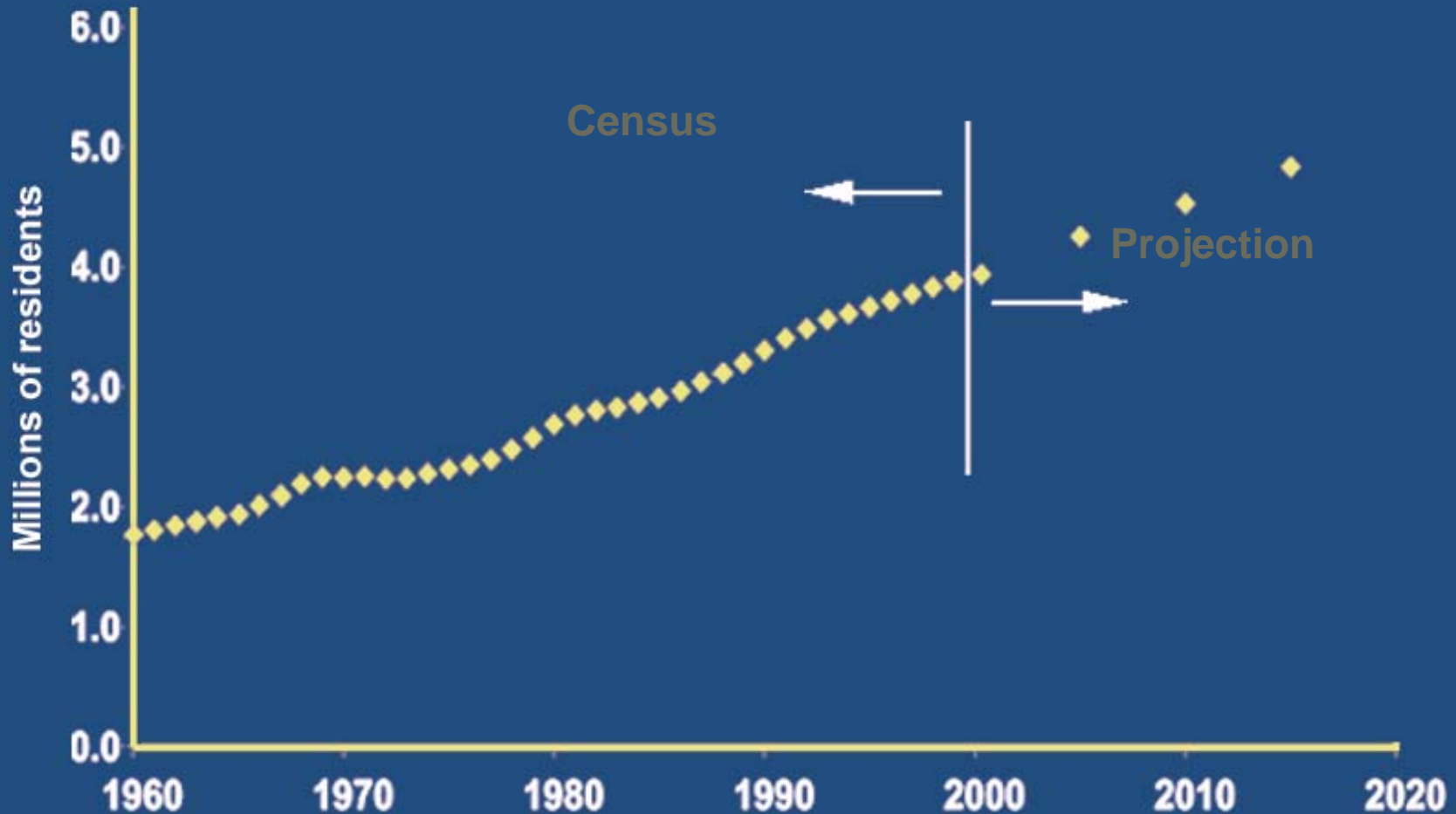


And everything has a home.



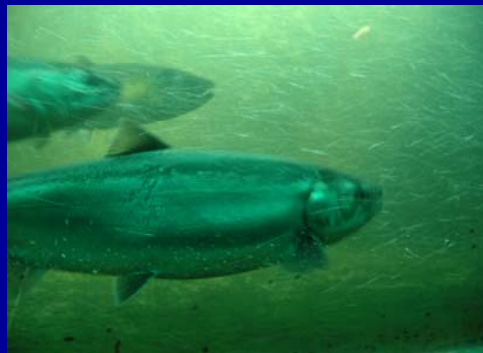
What Threatens the Health of the Sound and Straits?

Puget Sound Population Growth



Toxic Pollution--Historic and Ongoing

PCBs, PBDEs and other toxic chemicals move up the food chain



Polluted Runoff/Impervious Surfaces



Habitat Loss



Sewage

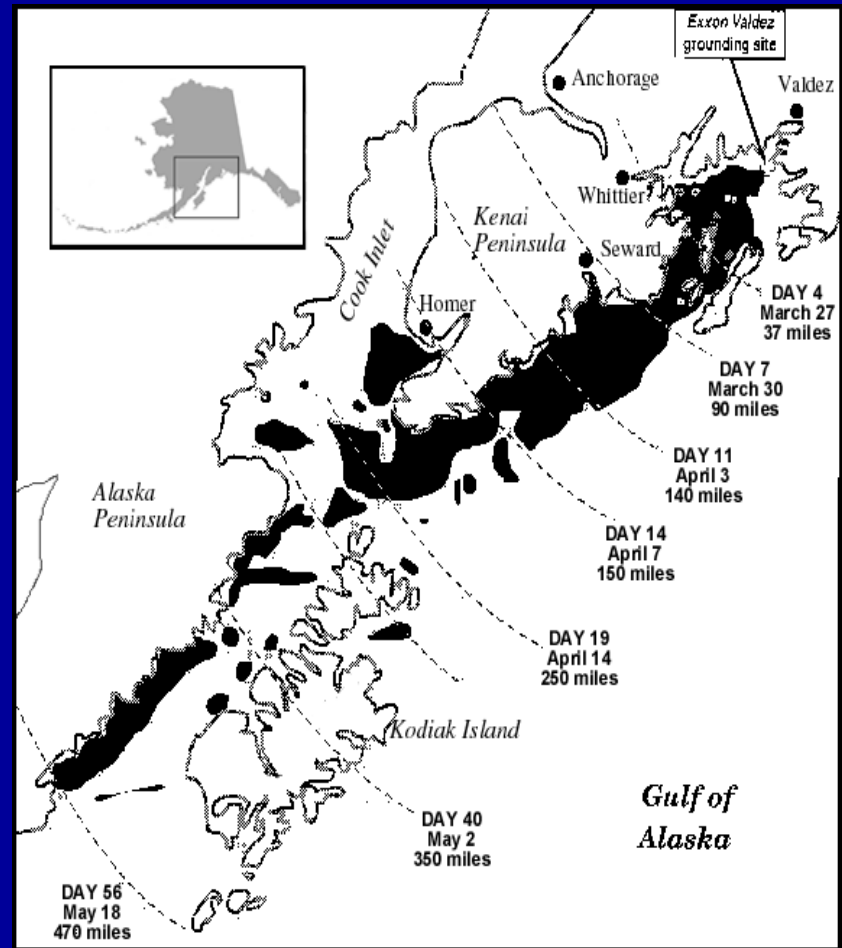


J. Kirk Condyle, NRDCs

Oil: The Risk of a Big One



Exxon Valdez, March 24, 1989



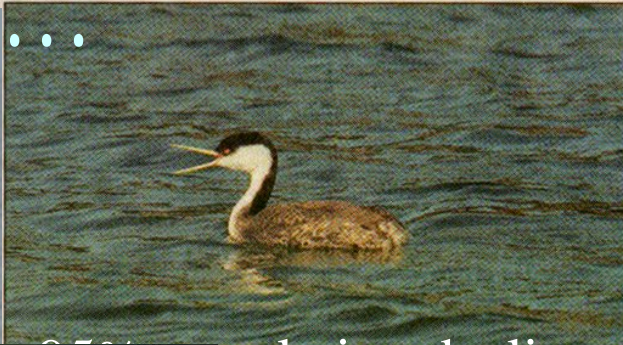
Climate Change

- Rising sea levels
- Warmer water
- More rain, less snow
- Intense storms, long droughts
- A “moving target”



What Does All This Mean for the Ecosystem?

Species on the brink...



Chinook Salmon

Courtesy: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Population decline
Oysters



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13 Species of Rock Fish



Hood Canal “Dead Zone”



What's at Stake

- Quality of Life
- Shellfish Industry
- Tourism & Recreation
- Tribal Cultures
- Our own Health!





What Needs to be Done

- Stop Destroying Habitat
- Restore Damaged Places
- Clean up and Prevent Toxins
- Manage Stormwater
- Prevent Oil Spills

- Live Sustainably!
- Enforce and Implement our Laws!

State of the Sound 2007

“The Sound’s overall trajectory...continues to be one of decline, with continuing harm to the clean water, abundant habitat and intact natural processes that are the foundations of a healthy environment.”

Puget Sound
Action Team, 2007





A Puget Sound Timeline

- 1984 First Puget Sound Water Quality Authority recommends comprehensive plan and coordinated action
- 1985 Legislature turns PSWQA into a real agency
- 1986 First Puget Sound Management Plan adopted



A Puget Sound Timeline

- 1988 Feds name Puget Sound “estuary of national significance”
- 1990 Legislature “reorganizes” PSWQA; pulls teeth
- 1991 People For Puget Sound founded!



A Puget Sound Timeline

- 1996 Legislature pulls more teeth-- PSWQA becomes Puget Sound Action Team
- 2004 Gregoire elected governor, is appalled by Hood Canal dead zone
- 2005 Governor declares 2020 as goal for healthy Sound



A Puget Sound Timeline

- 2005 Governor appoints “Puget Sound Partnership” to advise her on how to save the Sound
- 2006 Partnership reports to Governor, Governor makes recommendations to legislature
- 2007 Legislature creates new Puget Sound Partnership



A Puget Sound Timeline

- 2008 Partnership to produce Action Agenda and funding plan by September
- 2009 Will legislature come up with adequate, dedicated funding?
- 2020 A healthy Puget Sound, or.....?

What's "Healthy"?

How the Scientists Define “Healthy”

“A healthy Puget Sound supports sufficient quantity and quality of habitats to provide ecosystem goods and services upon which all species, including humans, depend....

Three key properties:

- Resilient to changes...
- Built-in redundancy in its parts...
- Representative sample of the diversity of species and habitat types...”



How the “old” Partnership Defined “Healthy”

A healthy human population is supported by healthy Sound.

Our quality of life is sustained by a healthy Sound.

Puget Sound species and the web of life thrive.

Puget Sound habitat is protected and restored.

Puget Sound rivers and streams provide water for people, fish and wildlife and the environment.

Puget Sound marine and fresh water are clean.

How Governor Gregoire Defines "Healthy"

"Fishable, Swimmable,
Diggable"



Sound Issues

1984

- Inadequate sewage treatment
- Contaminated shellfish areas
- Toxic sediments
- Polluted run-off
- Destroyed wetlands

2007

...is our list that much different today?



What's Been Missing in Puget Sound

- Accountability for results
- Sustained effort
- Political will
- Serious money
- Protection and restoration at large scale



What has been learned from Chesapeake and other places?

- Government Accountability Office evaluation of Chesapeake, Everglades, Great Lakes programs
- Scathing reviews!



GAO's recommendations

- Decision-making body
- Hold responsible parties accountable
- Link funding to outcomes
- Independent, transparent tracking of results





The “New” Puget Sound Partnership

- Healthy Sound by 2020
- Action Agenda and Funding Plan by Sept. 2008
- 7-member Leadership Council chaired by Bill Ruckelshaus
- 27-member “ecosystem coordination board”
- 9-member independent science panel
- 7 sub-regions



Accountability for Results

- “Action Agenda” not itself a regulation, BUT
- Incentives and Disincentives
- Measurable Objectives, Transparent Evaluation
- Independent Science
- Designated “Partners”



Serious Money?

- \$12 billion estimate to get to 2020 (2x current rate)
- Partnership to lay out funding plan
- 2007 session: "down payment": \$238 million
- Federal funding: \$20 million ear-mark





Goals of Action Agenda

Healthy people supported by healthy Sound

Quality of life sustained by healthy Sound

Species and web of life thrive

Habitat protected and
restored

Rivers and stream flows
support people and
wildlife

Clean water



Will this Partnership succeed?

It all depends!

- On the people in charge
- On what we demand
- On whether this is about saving the Sound and Straits in general, or.... specifically!

The Hope

- Emphasis on results
- Funding for actions
- Greater public engagement
- Ecosystem approach
- Accountability



The Fear

- More process
- Avoidance of the Big Issues
- Not enough money
- 20 years later--what happened?



The Reality

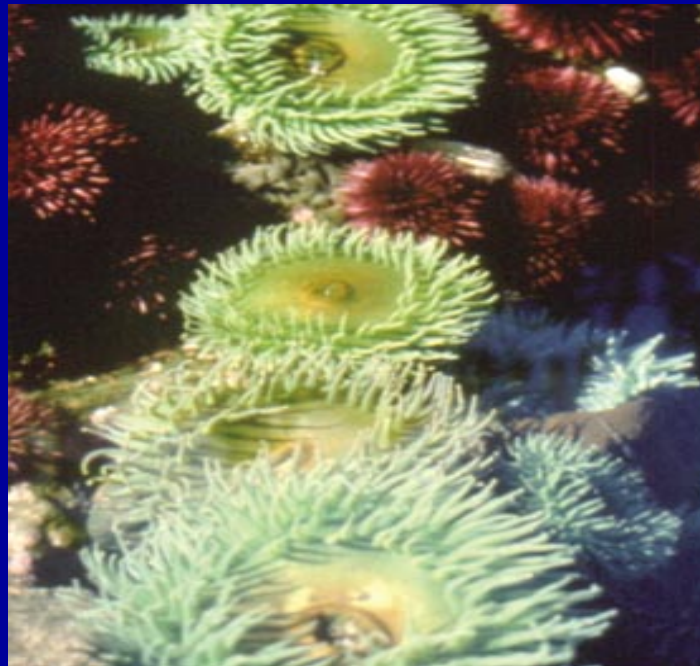
It's up to Us

- To get involved
- To spread the word
- To clean up our own act
- To demand results



Get dirty for Puget Sound!

- Be an activist: sign up at www.pugetsound.org
- Volunteer
- MudUp! Go to www.MudUp.org





www.MudUp.org





Get green for Puget Sound!

- "10 Things"
- 10 more
- 10 more...



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Offices in Mt. Vernon, Seattle, Olympia
Members all over!