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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2022 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
(Online)

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Transboundary Cooperation in the Salish Sea: 2021-2024 Action Plan of the US Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada

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Building on Twenty Years of International Cooperation:

The 2021-2024 Action Plan Under the Joint Statement of Cooperation on the Georgia Basin and Puget Sound Ecosystem

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Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)

Overview

Canada & the United States work together to share science and information, and track changes to understand the health of the transboundary Salish Sea ecosystem.

Joint Statement of Cooperation (SoC) on the Salish Sea (Georgia Basin & Puget Sound Ecosystem) signed in 2000.

View the signed original SoC:
bit.ly/2000soc

Implemented through a Working Group (WG) that develops and implements Action Plans.

The WG is advised by representatives of:

- Coast Salish Gathering
- British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Northwest Straits Commission
- Salish Sea Institute at Western Washington University

ECCC and EPA co-chair the WG by:

- Convening regular WG meetings & special meetings on priority topics
- Sharing information with the WG on developments and opportunities relevant to the Action Plan

Priority Action Item

Outcome

1- Support for the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

- 2021-2024 Priority Action Items advanced
- Sustained support for the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.

2 - Maintain and further develop the transboundary Salish Sea ecosystem health Indicators.

- Continued web presence for decision support and for the public.
- Continued information sharing & collaboration with transboundary partners and subject matter experts to facilitate integrated understanding of transboundary ecosystem health.

3 - Support information sharing activities on environmental and impact assessment and notification processes for projects in the Salish Sea ecosystem.

- Increased WG understanding of developments in transboundary environmental and impact and notification processes

4 - Support Tribal-First Nation transboundary coordination and information sharing mechanisms.

- Tribal and First Nation transboundary coordination and connection on Salish Sea health is supported.
- WG has greater awareness of Tribal and First Nation Salish Sea ecosystem interests and priorities, and activities of WG reflect this greater awareness.

5 - Support State/Provincial and local transboundary coordination and information sharing mechanisms

- EPA and ECCC coordinate with state/provincial/local needs and initiatives relating to water quality and ecosystem health in border watersheds, including data-sharing.

6 - Promote and foster coordination and information sharing activities on Salish Sea-related federal Initiatives; identify opportunities where US and Canadian federal interests and mechanisms may intersect.

- WG members and their stakeholders are well informed of federal Salish Sea protection initiatives.
- Potential areas for transboundary collaboration are identified.

View the current 2021-2024 Action Plan:
bit.ly/SOCap2124



Selected 2021-2024 activities

EPA & ECCC engagement to identify opportunities to expand the suite of indicators, to better represent Indigenous knowledge, and to link to related regional initiatives.

Explore options to improve support for tribal and First Nation transboundary coordination and engagement, including in the SOC Working Group.

Engage with other local and State/Provincial transboundary mechanisms including the Puget Sound Management Conference on shared interests & opportunities for cooperation.

Coordinate transboundary meetings of federal partners to review shared interests and progress, including on ecosystem science, climate change, and other environmental issues.

Examine the position and role of the SoC and WG in the broader landscape of partners and organizations acting to improve collaborative management of the Salish Sea.

Related SSEC Content

Poster: Reporting on the Health of the Salish Sea via transboundary ecosystem indicators: Reflecting on twenty years and mobilizing for the future
Snapshot: ECCC-EPA Joint Statement of Cooperation on the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Ecosystem: A 20-Year Retrospective Look



Environment and Climate Change Canada

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