

## Commission-Public-Records

---

**From:** Betsy Peabody <betsy@restorationfund.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 12:18 PM  
**To:** Commission-Public-Records  
**Cc:** Felleman, Fred  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PUBLIC COMMENT for March 24, 2020

**Categories:** Public Comment

**WARNING:** This is an external email. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and expect the content of this email to be safe.

Dear Port of Seattle Commissioners:

My name is Betsy Peabody. I am Executive Director of a nonprofit organization called Puget Sound Restoration Fund. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment.

I strongly encourage the Port of Seattle to approve Interlocal Agreements with the Washington Department of Ecology and Washington State Department of Natural Resources to support a three-year evaluation of carbon sequestration, water quality improvement, and ecological productivity associated with the Smith Cove Blue Carbon Pilot Project. This is important work. The Port has shown great leadership in testing out inventive ways to bolster nearshore marine habitats, such as eelgrass and kelp beds, in order to maintain a vibrant Seattle waterfront and a living marine system. The efficacy of nature-based solutions depends on monitoring to determine whether or not the intended benefits are actually achieved. The Port property is a great place to test out innovative actions *and* conduct ongoing monitoring of the Smith Cove Blue Carbon Project.

Puget Sound Restoration Fund is involved in multiple kelp-related efforts, including developing bull kelp restoration techniques, assessing the effect of kelp cultivation on seawater conditions and shellfish, and partnering with NOAA, DNR, and others to develop a Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan. Kelp is a critical component of a healthy, functioning, resilient marine ecosystem. Restoring or enhancing kelp along our waterfronts can help recover salmon, rockfish, and numerous other species.

I applaud the Port for engaging in nearshore restoration and monitoring efforts. Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Peabody