

Interlocal Agreement: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Smith Cove Blue Carbon Monitoring Study

February 9, 2021



Smith Cove Project Goals

- Investigate carbon sequestration potential
- Improve water quality
- Improve fish & wildlife habitat
- Enhance understanding of restoration techniques for kelp, eelgrass, and oyster in Central Puget Sound



Purpose of the ILA

- Request approval of a revised ILA with DNR to remove specific indemnity language (approved by legal).
- Draft ILAs were approved in April 2020.
- The Smith Cove Study requires ILAs with the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for implementing the monitoring plan.
- The revised ILA does not alter DNR's scope.

DNR Responsibilities

DNR

- Provide 50% of a Scientist II position for 3 years
- Monitor water quality/seawater acidity (pH) and shellfish survival
- Include site in the State's *Acidification Nearshore Monitoring Network (ANEMONE)*
- Incorporate volunteer participation through a community-based science plan
- Maintain/repair water quality sensors and other equipment at the site
- Generate a final report summarizing findings

Port Responsibilities

- Provide \$163,500 in funding to DNR to support the Scientist II position and community-based science involvement
- Provide access to the Smith Cove site and equipment
- Coordinate activities between Ecology, DNR, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, consultants, port, and community

Smith Cove Progress and Next Steps

2020

- Mapped distribution of cultch shell distribution at Smith Cove;
- Collection of central Puget Sound Olympia oysters for propagation
- Natural set capture for oyster seed;
- Kelp enhancement activities in (March 2020)
- Deployed data loggers to record light levels and temperature

2021

- Placement and monitoring of Olympia oysters (COVID-19 delay in 2020)
- Investigate kelp limiting factors along Seattle shoreline
- Eelgrass monitoring
- Kick-off monitoring program with DNR and Ecology

Schedule

Commission approval – E&S Committee funds	Sept. 11, 2018
Commission request – Ecology & DNR ILAs	April 14, 2020 and February 9, 2021
Additional kelp and oyster restoration	Spring 2020 – Spring 2021
DNR Requests revisions to ILA; Ecology ILA finalized	Fall 2020
Year 1 monitoring	Fall-Winter 2020
Year 2 monitoring	2021
Year 3 monitoring & Final Report	2022