

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

September 1 to December 31, 2024

### Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2024 focused on:

- Planned and facilitated September and November Salmon Recovery (SRC) meetings.
- Planned and facilitated September Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) update and November meeting.
- Managed process to review and solicit partner feedback on the draft WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement for 2026-2035.
- Secured SRC approval of the updated 2025 federal and state legislative priorities.
- Secured SRC approval of 2025 WRIA 8 budget and work plan.
- Facilitated a tour of the dewatered Ballard Locks for WRIA 8 partners.
- Drafted and distributed October and December WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Managed the 2024 Salmon SEEson campaign (18<sup>th</sup> annual) to increase public awareness of salmon viewing opportunities and increase support for salmon recovery.
- Administered the 2024 WRIA 8 Partner Satisfaction Survey.
- Represented WRIA 8 interests at regional and state salmon recovery forums, including Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, Puget Sound Watershed Leads, Washington Salmon Coalition, and South Central Local Integrating Organization.

*The following summary of services is organized according to work items outlined in the approved WRIA 8 Memorandum of Understanding.*

### **Salmon Recovery Council Coordination/Puget Sound Partnership**

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (September 19 and November 21)
  - [September](#) meeting focus: WRIA 8 Management Committee recommended 2025 Budget and Work Plan, Salmon Recovery Council membership, water quality priorities and stormwater management permit requirements, and a success story on Salmon SEEson 2024 from WRIA 8.
  - [November](#) meeting focus: Salmon Recovery Council Chair and Vice Chair Selection, review of final draft of 2026-2035 WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement, 2025 grant round preview, 2024 partner satisfaction survey, and addressing Lake Washington Ship Canal elevated temperature and low dissolved oxygen.
- Convened and facilitated a meeting with the King County deputy prosecuting attorney and interested legal counsels from partner jurisdictions to review and discuss the draft Interlocal Agreement (ILA).
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) (September 26 and November 21).
- Participated in two virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (October 10, November 14) and one in person (September 12).
- Attended one virtual meeting of the South Central LIO (September 17).
- Attended one WSC all Hands meeting (October 8) and one WSC Executive Committee meeting (December 9).
- Held meetings with WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council ILA partner jurisdictions to discuss WRIA 8 salmon recovery priorities, opportunities to advance projects, and funding opportunities.

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### Plan Implementation

- Advised project sponsors on how to develop projects in alignment with WRIA 8's recovery strategies.
- Supported sponsors applying for various funding sources, including those not directed by WRIA 8.
- Provided ongoing support to projects funded by WRIA 8 in past years.
- Scheduled and facilitated WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (ITC) meeting (November 13).
  - November meeting focus: Presentations on results of an eDNA study to investigate the distribution and seasonal patterns of three myxozoan parasites, and preliminary results of a sentinel caging study to investigate temporal and spatial disease risks within the Ship Canal during Chinook salmon migration.
- Managed the 2024 Salmon SEEson campaign (18th annual) to increase public awareness of salmon viewing opportunities and increase support for salmon recovery.

### Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meeting (October 23).
  - October meeting focus: kicked off discussions around the 2025 Monitoring and Assessment Priorities and early planning around a 2025 WRIA 8 Progress Report (Chinook and habitat status and trends reporting).
- Finalized the 2025 WRIA 8 Monitoring and Assessment Priorities outlining our current priority needs to advance understanding of critical issues in salmon recovery and inform science-based management actions.
- Coordinated a TC subgroup to review and revise 2025 priorities.
- Continued work to advance priority projects, including assessing solutions to reduce elevated Lake Washington Ship Canal water temperatures, worked with USFWS and WDFW to finalize a predation synthesis report, participated in a Trout Unlimited led Aquatic Weed Management Technical Workshop, participated in monthly PSEMP Salmonid Work Group meetings, and continued to track salmon return monitoring.

### Communication

- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (October and December).
- Coordinated 2024 WRIA 8 Partner Satisfaction Survey.
- Distributed email updates and announcements to WRIA 8 partners and interested parties, including funding opportunities, event notices, and information of interest.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 8 website at [www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/](http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/).

### Program Management and Administration

- Initiated recruitment of vacant WRIA 8 Project Coordinator position.
- Conducted general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development and tracking, regular reporting, billing, personnel management, and supervision.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 8 SRC meetings.
- Coordinated with partners on several issues including regional Puget Sound salmon recovery, habitat restoration, funding opportunities, and state and federal legislative priorities.

**For additional information on any item in this report, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-4780.**