

# Partnerships

## D2. Strategic, Collaborative Partnerships

Effective partner relationships are essential for achieving a shared vision of recovery and working through challenging issues. This section highlights three important areas of broad collaboration - that differ from the issue-specific collaboration described in Sections A–C and the Funding Section. A description of PSP-related collaborative structures and partnerships is included in Appendix C - *Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference Overview*.

### D2.1 Local Integrating Organizations: enhancing coordination and local recovery actions.

Many locally-based groups exist for salmon recovery, marine resources, watershed management (RCW 90.82) and protection, and water quality. In any given area, there are many local groups working on recovery-related activities, and these groups are often not adequately connected to each other. PSP is working with local interests to better coordinate implementing partners, and create a more efficient and effective approach to clarify local priorities, accomplish identified work, address problems, and provide technical support.

PSP's authorizing statute (RCW 90.71.260) created seven Action Areas to help organize regional recovery work. In areas such as Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Action Area is a useful scale for defining working boundaries. In other cases, the defined Action Area has proven to be too geographically large, or too diverse - and a smaller-scale, watershed-based approach has evolved. These scales are illustrated by the formation of Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) described below.

The 2008 Action Agenda called for improved coordination of local implementation. In response, PSP worked with local partners and developed a network of local integrating organizations (LIOs). LIOs are coordinating bodies, that integrate and support the work of various entities in each Action Area. LIOs provide an effective mechanism for local partners to prioritize actions and implement the Action Agenda at the local scale. The LIOs also provide input to the update of the Action Agenda, establish local priorities, coordinate implementation, and track progress. As of the date of this publication, eight LIOs have been established or are in the final stages of formation. Two additional LIOs are anticipated.

### Local Strategies

Skagit and Stillaguamish and Snohomish are thinking about local strategies in this area.\* The Strait has identified this as a non-priority, yet important strategic area as well.

*\* See Local Areas Chapters for more detail on local areas that are in the process of completing strategy and action identification and prioritization.*

## Ongoing Programs

### Key Ongoing Program Activities

- PSP staff oversees provides and manages grants to support LIOs.
- PSP is continuing to work to create three additional LIOs in 2012.
- PSP staff provides regional guidance and assistance to LIOs in their work to develop and implement locally-based strategic plans for Action Agenda implementation, including developing lists of priority local actions.
- PSP recognizes and relies upon the LIO structure for information exchange, local content for the Action Agenda, and soliciting feedback.
- Each LIO maintains an ongoing work program. Local priorities are summarized in the Action Agenda profiles with priority actions also listed by topic area in the Action Agenda.

### Near-Term Actions

None; work in the near-term will focus on implementation of ongoing programs.