



Community Development - Environmental Quality 00100.332.

Mission Statement

We envision a future for the North Olympic Peninsula where people enjoy a healthy natural ecosystem, with excellent water quality and with fish and wildlife populations that support ceremonial, subsistence, recreational, and commercial activities.

Function

- The Environmental Quality staff in the Department of Community Development work to assess, protect, maintain, support and restore healthy functioning waterways and ecosystems across Clallam County
- Maintain County Internet web pages related to shoreline management, land use, and natural resources planning.
- Monitor the effectiveness of watershed, marine, and salmon recovery projects.

Other Environmental Services

- Work collaboratively within the County and with state and federal agencies, Tribes, and others to recover at-risk and ESA-listed species such as Puget Sound Chinook, Puget Sound Steelhead, Lake Ozette Sockeye, Bull Trout, Easter Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum, Eulachon, and Pacific Lamprey. This includes participation with relevant committees and groups.
- Seek and manage grant funding to develop, implement, and monitor plans, projects, community outreach, and training (e.g.: oil spill training, habitat restoration, floodplain restoration, acquisition of important habitats for conservation) that benefit watersheds and marine ecosystems.
- Coordinate the Clallam Marine Resources Committee through grant management, web site updates, agenda preparation, education on marine related issues, oiled wildlife and HAZWOPER training, and field activities.
- Represent Clallam County on various work groups, committees, and other boards addressing a wide range of land use and natural resource related issues including, but not limited to:
 - Clallam County Climate Action Committee
 - Clean Water Work Group
 - Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board
 - Dungeness River Management Team
 - North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee will be coordinating starting late 2025
 - North Pacific Coast Lead Entity (Salmon Recovery & Habitat Restoration)
 - North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity (Salmon Recovery & Habitat Restoration)
 - Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network

- Lake Ozette Recovery with Makah Tribe
- Attend Quileute stakeholders meeting for their river restoration projects
- Gain information about salmon recovery funding opportunities that can be shared with landowner, local tribes and governments, non profits and other restoration practitioners
- Develop, update and implement various natural resource plans (e.g., watershed, salmon recovery, habitat restoration, floodplain management and others).
- Collaborate on the development of regional habitat & watershed restoration projects.
- Gather credible data to inventory and characterize watershed conditions.
- Assist in determining priorities for watershed and habitat restoration.
- Monitor the effectiveness of watershed and salmon recovery projects.
- Discover collaborative ways to improve shellfish harvest areas, protect and restore marine habitat, support salmon and bottom fish recovery, and examine resource management alternatives.
- Work to help further recovery of ESA-listed Lake Ozette Sockeye, Puget Sound Chinook, along with Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum along with other struggling salmon species including participation on relevant committees and groups.

Clallam County Marine Resources Committee

- The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee was established in 1998 as part of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation initiative to involve citizens in protecting and restoring marine resources.
- The Marine Resources Committee also engages in environmental monitoring, manages projects like marine debris removal and oil spill response training, restores native Olympia oysters, educates the community on environmental issues, and sponsors student interns.
- The MRC is working toward benchmarks for marine habitats, marine life, water quality, community engagement, and climate change.
- Clallam MRC Operations: To carry out administrative functions in support of the mission, including work plan preparations, developing and preparing grant proposals, programmatic staff support, project monitoring and performance tracking, coordinating education and internship programs, planning and participating in training opportunities.

North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon

- Provide organization development, support and leadership to help advance restoration and protection across the North Olympic Peninsula
- Coordinates meetings of its Citizens/Policy Group and also its Technical Team
- Assists restoration partners with project funding and other support.
- Manages a public grant application process that allocates for Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grants.
- Collaborate and participate with regional salmon recovery organizations and sustainability efforts including work with the Puget Sound Partnership and the Hood Canal Coordinating Council.
- Tracks and works with other ecosystem restoration and recovery efforts including Floodplains by Design, The Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board and the Washington Salmon Coalition, among others

- Gains information about salmon recovery funding opportunities that can be shared with landowner, local tribes and governments, non profits and other restoration practitioners
- Informs and helps educate the public and elected officials about the need for salmon restoration and what is needed to advance recovery.
- Coordinates and updates recovery plans, strategies, four year work plans and efforts needed for adaptive management of recovery efforts.

Streamkeepers

- Streamkeepers is a water quality program within Clallam County Department of Community Development. The program relies on volunteers who monitor our local streams and enter the results into a database. The Streamkeepers Coordinator manages water quality monitoring projects funded by grants, contracts, and Clallam County. The Coordinator also conducts water quality monitoring, trains & supervises volunteers, analyzes data, writes reports, and distributes reports and data to other entities for use.
Streamkeepers projects include:
 - Streamkeepers Quarterly Monitoring: Stream monitoring on ten creeks with six volunteer teams four times per year. This project is funded by Clallam County.
 - Benthic Macroinvertebrates Monitoring: Summer collection of samples of aquatic insect larvae from Clallam County streams, which are subsequently identified by professional entomologists to determine a Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity for each stream. This project is funded by Clallam County and the City of Port Angeles.
 - Pollution Investigation and Correction (PIC): Streamkeepers has been contracted by Clallam County Environmental Health (through grants from Washington Dept. of Ecology and Washington Dept. of Health) to monitor 20 streams monthly in order to identify those with high levels of bacterial pollution. Environmental Health contract Streamkeepers to perform and interpret testing. This aids them in prioritizing actions taken by the PIC Project.
 - Off-Channel Reservoir Project Surface Water Testing: Monthly and storm monitoring of water in ditches that will be inflow to and outflow from the future reservoir during irrigation season. This project is funded by a Washington Dept. of Ecology grant to the Clallam County Department of Public Works.
 - City of Port Angeles Water Quality Monitoring Project: Monthly and storm monitoring of water in Port Angeles Creeks and stormwater outfalls, to assess potential effects of stormwater on stream water quality. The City of Port Angeles has contracted Streamkeepers to perform and interpret the testing.
 - Stream monitoring at the Lower Dungeness Floodplain Restoration Project: Streamkeepers have been monitoring the Floodplains to assess effect of the project on stream water quality and the creation of fish habitat.
 - Streamkeepers data supports our water quality grants.
 - Streamkeepers Manager serves as technical advisor to internal and external partners.
 - Streamkeepers Manager serves as technical advisor to regional water quality groups, such as the Clean Water Work Group.

Trends/Events

North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon

The North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon continues its work advancing salmon recovery and restoration across the North Olympic Peninsula for all watersheds emptying into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The lead entity is a consortium which includes initiating government members including Clallam County, the cities of Port Angeles and Sequim, plus the Makah, Elwha & Jamestown S'Klallam Tribes along with non-profits and citizens.

Many of our project sponsors are currently busy implementing large scale restoration efforts and we are involved in actively supporting them. Due to inflation, projects have experienced increased costs and we assist in helping find resources to fill those shortfalls. We continue to run our annual grant round allocating state salmon dollars. In 2024, we have new funding from the state's Climate Commitment Act which is dedicated towards Reparation Restoration so we have worked with our partners on how those funds can be best used. In addition, in 2023 and 2024 we are working collaboratively with local partners to update the Elwha and Dungeness Chapters of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan. We are also working collaboratively to advance remote sensing floodplain monitoring project development, another area of emphasis at the current time. Many significant projects have been implemented and there is a need now to help develop the next generation of restoration efforts.

In addition, in 2023 and 2024 we are working collaboratively with local partners to update the Elwha and Dungeness Chapters of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan. We are also working collaboratively to advance remote sensing floodplain monitoring project development in the Dungeness, as well as supporting Elwha monitoring efforts which is another area of emphasis at the current time. Many significant projects have been implemented and there is a need now to help develop and support implementation of the next generation of restoration efforts.

Clallam County Marine Resources Committee

MRC Operations include: Monthly meetings, Grant administration, Website maintenance, Annual Workplan development, Strategic Plan, Training, representation at the North west Straits Commission meetings, presentations to local governments and classrooms.

Monitoring: MRC is providing a better understanding of the forage fish populations within the Salish Sea by performing citizen science monitoring and raising awareness about the ecological importance of forage fish. The MRC samples monthly on three beaches monthly in Clallam County in coordination with WDFW.

Olympia Oyster monitoring and restoration in Sequim Bay in Coordination with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Pigeon Guillemot monitoring with Audobon Society of 17 sites along shoreline bluffs. Kelp bed monitoring by kayak in coordination with WDNR and LEKT. The Clallam MRC also provides and monitors a dog waste station and SaniKan at the West Elwha Beach trailhead.

Streamkeepers

Streamkeepers continues monitoring water quality in support of Port Angeles stormwater management, the Pollution Investigation and Correction Program, the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir Project, the Lower Dungeness Floodplain Restoration Project, and ongoing Streamkeepers quarterly monitoring and stream macroinvertebrate monitoring.

Each year, Streamkeepers produces an annual report on water quality in Port Angeles streams for the City of Port Angeles. Streamkeepers also produces annual reports on PIC Trends Monitoring for submission to Washington State Dept. of Ecology. Reports are also available to the public upon request and will soon be available on the Streamkeepers website. Each year, Streamkeepers submits data to Ecology's Environmental Information Management Database, thereby contributing to Washington State Biennial Water Quality Assessments. In 2023-2024, Streamkeepers did outreach at the Forever StreamFest and a Martin Luther King Day celebration event. Streamkeepers' data provides valuable information for development of stormwater plans, prioritization of pollution control efforts, and assessment of restoration project effectiveness.

Streamkeepers' data is providing valuable background information for development of stormwater plans and ordinances.

Other Environmental Services

The Clallam County Climate Action Plan, recently adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, offers recommendations that may be integrated into upcoming comprehensive, watershed, hazard mitigation, and salmon recovery plan updates. Environmental Quality staff will collaborate internally and externally to incorporate important elements into the plans.

The Clallam Marine Resources Committee is poised to increase its ability to accomplish monitoring and restoration in the marine environment.

Environmental Quality staff will continue to monitor habitat restoration projects undertaken by the County and its partners.

To improve Clallam County's watersheds and help decrease flooding issues, DCD's Natural Resources staff have received grant funding to partner with local landowners to host a workshop and community presentation to learn nonlethal techniques for managing beavers in our streams. Titled "Beaver Coexistence" the workshop offers hands-on experience for local professionals to install and maintain beaver management devices. A community presentation offers a chance for the broader community to learn about the benefits of beavers in the watershed and to understand the principles of nonlethal management techniques.

Goals

1. Seek community involvement and partnerships to improve environmental quality for fish, wildlife and humans.
2. Collaborate on local efforts to restore habitat for salmon and other species.
3. Provide volunteering and learning opportunities to improve local knowledge of environmental conditions. Facilitate public involvement in stream monitoring & watershed stewardship.
4. Monitor local streams, and gather quality data to guide management decisions.
5. Contribute to the protection and improvement of water quality of Clallam County streams.
6. Report the information to a variety of audiences.

Workload Indicators

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual
Clallam Marine Resource Committee (hours)	935	1714	922
N. Pacific Coast Marine Resource Comm. (hours)	59	63	27
N. Pacific Coast Lead Entity-Salmon Rec (hours)	69	67.5	
North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon - Coordinator and Support (hours)	2,091	1,674	779
Marine Resource Committee Volunteer Hours	407	TBD	TBD
Streamkeepers Volunteer Hours		TBD	TBD

Grant Funding Sources

1. DOE /NOAA Northwest Straits Grant
2. DOE Marine Resources Committee (MRC) Administration Grant
3. WDFW Interlocal w/Jefferson County to support Coastal MRC
4. WA State Recreation and Conservation Office, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
5. WDFW Interlocal w/Jefferson County to support Coastal MRC
6. WA State Recreation and Conservation Office, Salmon-Lead Entity-Fed. & St. Contracts including Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program funding.
7. WDFW McDonald Creek Fish Screening & Passage Project Support
8. RCO McDonald Creek Fish Screening and Passage Project Support.
9. City of Port Angeles reimburses Streamkeepers for Storm Water work
10. Public Works' Grant reduced reimbursement for Streamkeepers Work
11. Clallam County Environmental Health reduced reimbursement for Streamkeepers' work

Revenues

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual	2026 Budget
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	292,968	937,921	357,108	815,939
Charges for Goods and Services	30,543	40,699	20,978	78,958
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	0	11,211	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
Transfers In	0	0	0	0
General Tax Support	235,413	157,925	106,770	46,821
Total	558,925	1,136,545	496,067	941,718

Expenditures

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual	2026 Budget
Salaries and Wages	300,687	337,105	175,057	389,706
Personnel Benefits	128,031	149,899	77,758	156,739
Supplies	29,696	22,170	6,046	11,435
Other Services and Charges	100,511	627,371	237,206	383,838
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	0	0	0	0
Interfund Payments for Services	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0
Total	558,925	1,136,545	496,067	941,718

Staffing

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual	2026 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	4.00	4.00	4.50	4.50