



**San Juan County**

**Community Development & Planning**

135 Rhone Street P.O. Box 947 Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
(360) 378-2354 (360) 378-2116 Fax (360) 378-3922  
[www.sanjuanco.com](http://www.sanjuanco.com)

October 11, 2011

RE: President Channel Shoreline 11-1577 Proposal

Dear Review Panel Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Review Panel's comments regarding the President Channel Shoreline proposal. Unfortunately, we were unaware of the comments the Review Panel made in July regarding this project and thus why there were no comments submitted. We appreciate the opportunity to address those comments now.

The project sponsor will address the application format issue and will re-submit the project application information in the standard evaluation proposal format for acquisition projects.

This memo will address the comments regarding how this project fits within the WRIA2 strategy. The evaluation criteria and interim strategy developed for this grant round are based on the results of local assessment projects to date. Attached in Appendix A is the evaluation criteria used for this grant round. The evaluation criteria includes the interim strategy and maps showing priority areas that have been identified based on forage fish and Chinook juvenile salmon habitat usage assessments.

This project, the President Channel Shoreline acquisition proposal, is located in the highest priority area for Chinook juvenile salmon. Thus, this proposal is in an area that fits exactly with the priorities expressed in the evaluation criteria and the interim strategy. It may be of interest to also note that during the site visit a school of juvenile salmon was noted along the shoreline of this project site. This proposal fits exactly with the local strategy to protect locations used by migrating juvenile salmon.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Review Panel's comments regarding the President Channel Shoreline proposal.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rosenkotter  
San Juan County Lead Entity Coordinator for Salmon Recovery  
[barbarar@sanjuanco.com](mailto:barbarar@sanjuanco.com)  
360-370-7593

## Appendix A: Evaluation Criteria for WRIA2

### **SAN JUAN COUNTY WRIA 2 LEAD ENTITY Application Process and Scoring Criteria Round 12 (2011) Salmon Recovery Funding**

Approved by the San Juan County Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) / San Juan County MRC on April 6, 2011.

---

#### **San Juan County / WRIA2 Goals and Priorities for Salmon Recovery - Interim Strategy**

Over the last few years, WRIA2 has concentrated on performing assessments necessary to fill critical data gaps to document the important habitats in the San Juans and to have a better understanding of how, when and where salmon are utilizing San Juan County's shorelines, fresh and marine waters. This is the highest priority action(s) identified in the San Juan County Salmon Recovery Chapter:

"The key goal in San Juan County is to identify critical habitats and ecosystem interactions in order to develop protection and restoration actions that will be most effective in moving populations of Puget Sound Chinook towards recovery. In San Juan County (WRIA2) protection of high quality nearshore marine habitat is the top salmon recovery goal. The current prioritized action strategy to meet the protection goal is:

1. Assessment Projects – fulfilling critical data gaps via assessments which will enhance and support protection and identify needs and opportunities for restoration;
2. Protection Projects – includes data sharing, stewardship, acquisition and easements, incentives and education;
3. Restoration Projects – to be based on habitat condition assessments."

Since multiple assessments have now been completed, WRIA2 is now working to bring the various assessments and data sets together and to analyze and use the assessment information to prioritize protection and restoration actions for San Juan County. This work is in progress now through the "Pulling It All Together" (PIAT) project. The results of the analysis will then be incorporated to update the local work plan. The development of a restoration and protection plan will create a common understanding of priorities and direct efforts toward local projects that are critical to the recovery of salmon.

Thus the actions as stated above from the recovery plan would now be prioritized in this manner:

1. Protection Projects – includes acquisition and easements informed by the "Pulling It All Together" project, data sharing, stewardship, incentives and education;
2. Restoration Projects – based on habitat assessments and "Pulling It All Together" project analysis;
3. Assessment Projects – includes monitoring, filling data gaps, and conducting research that will in turn support protection and restoration efforts.

#### **Interim Strategy**

The "Pulling It All Together" project is still in progress so an interim strategy is being documented to provide guidance for this current grant round to be used until the PIAT project has been completed and the results have been used to update the local work plan.

What we know now and can document is that the current approach being pursued via the PIAT project is an emphasis on areas used by fish in the San Juans:

- Juvenile Chinook
- Juvenile Forage Fish
- Spawning Forage Fish

These data layers are shown in the maps in Appendix A.

The next steps for the PIAT project will be to analyze conditions of nearshore areas in the San Juans to identify protection and restoration areas for the Broad Scale Analysis which is to be completed approximately May 2011. These results will further be refined via the Fine Scale Analysis most likely using Ecological Communities (Habitat Structure). The Fine Scale Analysis is scheduled to be complete Fall 2011. The freshwater components will be incorporated in the Fine Scale Analysis.

For this grant round, we will use the same emphasis on fish use areas that the PIAT project is pursuing as the interim strategy. Proponents will need to document how the proposal relates to the fish use areas in Appendix A.

---

### **Pre-Application Process**

A pre-application starts with finalizing the project information in the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) <http://hws.ekosystem.us/>. The items that need to be included on a proposed project in HWS are verified by running the Validation Tool titled "Validate for San Juan LE" on the project face page. Additionally, all projects must have in HWS:

- At least one Activity Type included and quantified.
- For nearshore projects, the Nearshore Habitat Type must also be included.
- Projects must be mapped via the HWS Mapping/GIS tool.

Proposed projects may then be submitted to PRISM using the interface with PRISM via the new Contracts Module in HWS to submit the project as an application in PRISM.

The following information and attachments must be submitted in PRISM either via the HWS / PRISM interface or manually input into PRISM for pre-application review: (Note: Proposed projects must also be in HWS as noted above.)

- Project name
- Project type
- Project sponsor
- Project description
- Estimated budget
- Project location map
- Site or parcel map
- A preliminary design plan or sketch for restoration projects and any future restoration projects.
- Evidence that project is part of a recovery plan or lead entity strategy

### **Pre-Application Evaluation Criteria**

During the pre-application review process, the local Salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will provide preliminary feedback regarding questions and/or recommendations on how the proposals could be enhanced. Scoring is based on Red, Yellow or Green.

This is the guidance used for Red, Yellow, Green scoring:

Red = Not Recommend

Proposal does not fit the local salmon recovery strategy and/or issues can not be addressed during timeframe for the funding round. Proposal may not be eligible to move forward and be submitted for SRFB funding.

Yellow = Recommend with changes

Questions, feedback, comments and recommendations are provided to project proponent to clarify, enhance or improve proposal. Proposal could move to green once questions/issues are addressed.

Moving from Yellow to Green is via TAG consensus.

Green = Recommend

Proposal is acceptable and is eligible to be submitted for SRFB funding. Additional comments are noted to suggest enhancements or improvements for the proposal.

---

### **Final Proposal Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals should be complete, succinct and clear. Sponsors should document assertions when necessary. Reviewers will not give the benefit of the doubt to incomplete or vague applications.

Total project evaluation scores will be comprised as follows: Benefit to Salmon - 55%, Fit to Plan/Strategy - 30%, and Socioeconomic Impacts - 15%. The local Salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will also evaluate projects based on Certainty of Success which will be categorized by Red, Yellow or Green.

When scoring projects, rank each project from 1-10 under each category (Benefit to Salmon, Fit to Plan/Strategy, and Socioeconomic Impacts). TAG and CAG members should use only whole numbers in scoring projects; please do not use decimals or fractions. Overall score will be determined by multiplying the score for each category by its weight and adding to obtain the final score. For example, a score of 8 for Benefit to Salmon, 8 for Fit to Plan/Strategy and 6 for Socioeconomic Impacts would have a final score as follows:  $8(0.55) + 8(0.30) + 6(0.15) = 7.7$ .

TAG members are encouraged to ask questions regarding projects and information should be shared between reviewers.

### **Certainty of Success (Red, Yellow, Green) – Scored by TAG**

Certainty of Success will be evaluated based on sponsor documentation that establishes the project intent regarding:

- Technical Feasibility, Methodology, Achievability - Accomplish the objectives within the stated period of time given the requested resources and available matching funds.
- Requires limited maintenance, works with natural ecosystem processes, is self-sustaining, and uses materials appropriate in scale and complexity to efficiently accomplish the work.
- Documented landowner cooperation/approval, permitting processes and requirements completed, water availability, etc.
- Makes effective use of matching funds.
- Supporting documentation of all project partners and what match each partner may be providing.
- Endorsements or statements of cooperation from agencies or other entities on whom the project depends.
- How could the project be impacted by climate change / sea level rise? What is long term benefit to salmon with changing climate? See Appendix B - letter from WRIA2 TAG regarding proposed sea level rise.

SCORING: Scoring will be based on:

Red = Not Recommend

Proposal issues can not be addressed during timeframe for the funding round. Proposal is not eligible and may not be submitted for SRFB funding. However, the TAG should still score the proposal as much as possible on the additional criteria so that the CAG has information for them to make any final decisions, if needed, regarding which proposals may advance for SRFB funding.

Green = Recommend

Proposal is acceptable and/or issues have been resolved. Proposal is eligible to be submitted for SRFB funding.

Moving preliminary scoring from Red or Yellow to Green is via TAG consensus.

**Benefit to Salmon (55 %) – Scored by TAG**

Benefit to salmon will be evaluated based on sponsor documentation that establishes the project intent to address actions in the local salmon recovery strategy. Preference will be given to projects that are Chinook focused and address factors affecting Chinook.

In general, projects will be evaluated based on Scientific Merit, Costs vs. Benefits, Potential of Project to Inform Efforts, etc.

- Protection and Restoration Projects: Show that project will benefit a particular life history phase, stock of salmon, habitat type and/or salmon prey species.
- Protection and Restoration Projects: Synergistic, builds on previous habitat projects on site or nearby.
- Pursue the most cost effective alternative to achieve the desired outcome.
- Assessment Projects: Identify gap the assessment is addressing. Show how the results of the assessment will be used to inform and support the local work plan.
- Assessment Projects: Collect data consistent with current protocols, including statistical precision criteria, where applicable.

Note: Assessment projects will not likely be supported during this grant round. Results of the Pulling It All Together” (PIAT) project may identify future data gaps and assessments.

SCORING: Total possible score = 10. Weight = 55%

**Fit to Plan/Strategy (30 %) – Scored by TAG**

Fit will be evaluated based on how well the proposed project fits the local strategy (see page 1) and the 3 year work plan. Document how the project relates to the fish use areas in Appendix A. The project should be documented in the 3 year work plan and should be in the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS)

<http://hws.ekosystem.us/> .

SCORING: Total possible score = 10. Weight = 30%

**Socioeconomic Impacts (15 %) – Scored by CAG**

(Note: Even though this category is scored by the CAG, any input from the TAG is welcome.)

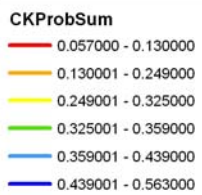
Socioeconomic Impacts will be evaluated based on sponsor documentation that establishes the project intent to:

- Build community support in terms of volunteer contributors and/or local partners; enhance community education and outreach about the watershed.
- Synergistic Activity - Complements, enhances, provides synergy with existing programs.
- Produce secondary community benefits such as increased public safety, decreased risk of property damage, or improvements to physical infrastructure.
- Sustainable disposal plan – how is any de-construction waste reused, recycled or otherwise disposed of?

SCORING: Total possible score = 10. Weight = 15%.

## Appendix A: Fish Use Maps

Index of Fish Presence Probability for Wild (Unmarked) Juvenile Chinook Salmon  
(*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) for Shoreline Habitat  
(from Beamer & Fresh 2011)



0 5 10  
Kilometers



Index of Fish Presence Probability for Juvenile Pacific Herring (*Clupea harengus*)  
for Shoreline Habitat  
(from Beamer & Fresh 2011)



0 5 10  
Kilometers

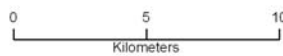
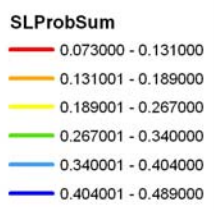


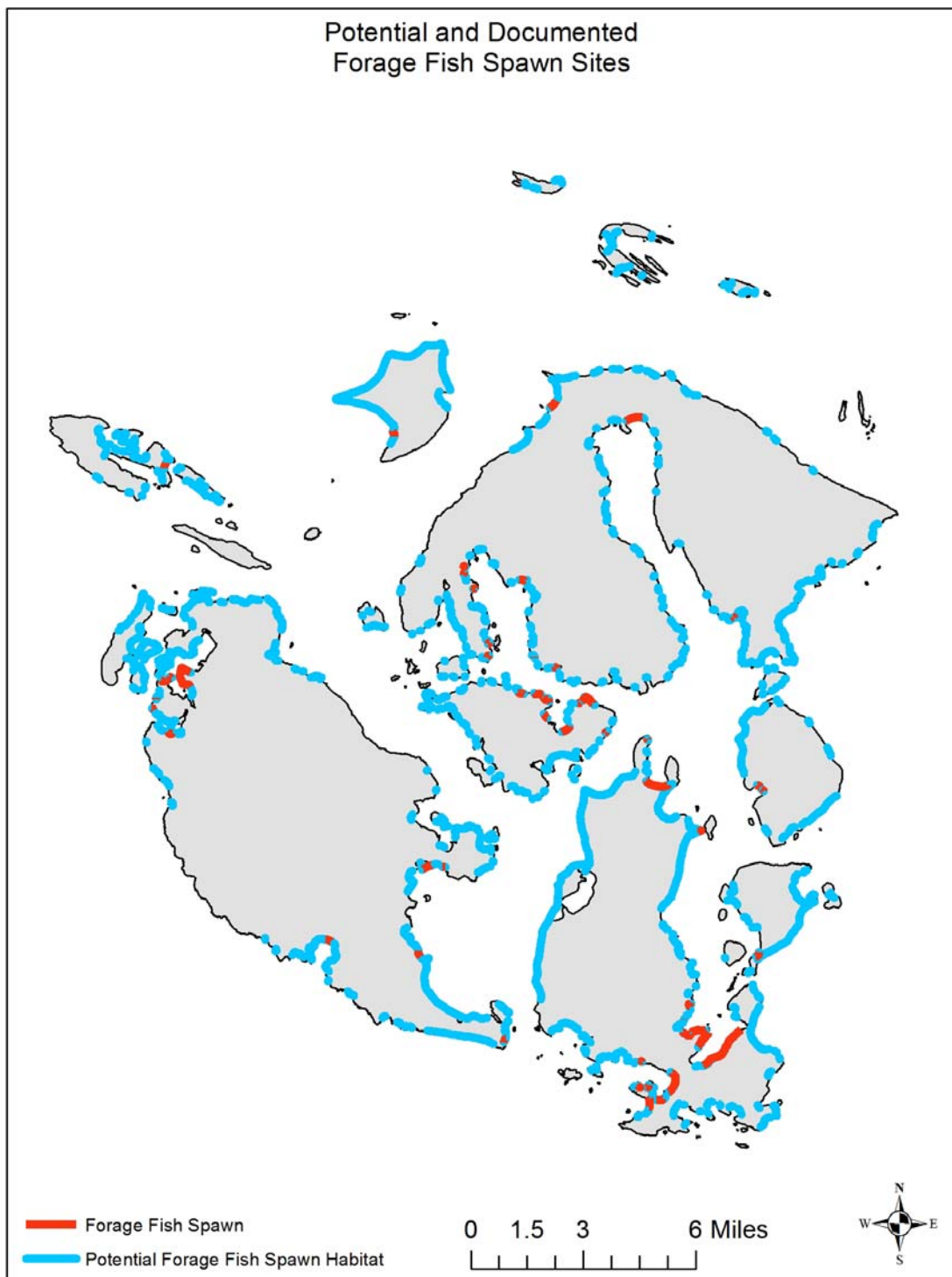
Index of Fish Presence Probability for Juvenile Surf Smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*)  
for Shoreline Habitat  
(from Beamer & Fresh 2011)



SmProbSum	
0.167000 - 0.207000	Red
0.207001 - 0.239000	Orange
0.239001 - 0.271000	Yellow
0.271001 - 0.302000	Green
0.302001 - 0.334000	Blue
0.334001 - 0.374000	Dark Blue

Index of Fish Presence Probability for Juvenile Pacific Sand Lance  
(*Ammodytes hexapterus*) for Shoreline Habitat  
(from Beamer & Fresh 2011)





Map: Friends of the San Juans

## Appendix B: Letter from TAG Regarding Sea Level Rise

Date: February 16, 2011  
To: Janice Biletnikoff, Senior Planner  
San Juan County - Community Development and Planning Department  
From: Technical Advisory Group for Salmon Recovery in San Juan County (TAG)<sup>i</sup>  
Subject: Best Available Science for Frequently Flooded Areas

The Technical Advisory Group for Salmon Recovery in San Juan County (TAG) is submitting comments on the draft Best Available Science for Frequently Flooded Areas.

The TAG is charged with making recommendations to the Lead Entity on salmon restoration and protection projects in San Juan County via the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds. In recent years, the value of these projects has exceeded \$1 million annually. In addition the TAG regularly advises the Lead Entity, Puget Sound Partnership, Marine Resources Committee and others on issues affecting salmon and salmon recovery in San Juan County. As the ramifications of global climate change become more apparent, the TAG has incorporated current scientific information into evaluating its effects on salmon recovery and restoration efforts. For example, beginning in 2006 the TAG has required SRFB applicants to describe, among other things, how their projects would be impacted by climate change / sea level rise. Using this criterion, projects whose restoration benefits are likely to be negatively impacted by sea level rise have received lower priority for funding. Examples include coastal erosion repairs to County-maintained roads where the potential benefit to salmon would be better served by relocating the roadway to a higher elevation.

The draft BAS for Frequently Flooded Areas does a good job of summarizing the current status of sea level rise in Puget Sound. The "very high" projection of 68.9 inches by 2100 (Clancy et al 2009) is consistent with the TAG's working hypothesis of 60". This assumes no meaningful change in processes, both natural and anthropogenic, that affect climate change. The author rightly acknowledges the many complexities in climate change and local conditions that create uncertainties about the rate and magnitude of sea level rise in San Juan County. Current models show the rate of sea level rise accelerating with the melting of terrestrial ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica, with most of the rise occurring in the latter half of this century.

The TAG believes sea level rise will affect the County in numerous ways beyond what is summarized in the BAS sections 5.3.3.3 and 5.4. For example, ongoing maintenance of County roads along eroding shorelines has degraded surf smelt spawning areas, which can decrease an important food source for salmon and other marine life. With sea level rise in mind, we recommend Public Works plan to relocate erosion-sensitive roads inland. Further, we support the County adopting the "very high" projections for sea level rise in all land-use planning and capital projects and recommend revisiting these projections as new scientific information becomes available.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

---

<sup>i</sup> The TAG consists of Eric Beamer, Alan Chapman, Ray Glaze, Gene Helfman, Steve Hinton, David Hoopes, Judy Meyer, Robert Naiman, Kit Rawson, Chuck Schietinger, Kimbal Sundberg, and Bob Warinner