

Group 1: Understanding the public interest in addressing sea level rise risks

Discussion questions

- In addressing sea level rise through the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and other programs, where is the boundary between managing risk for the public interest and “let the buyer beware” (i.e., what is our interest/need)?
- What are the social, environmental, and economic impacts that motivate government action on sea level rise?

Goal: Articulate the reasons and decision rationale for local governments to be acting on sea level rise.

Description: The obligation of the local government in regards to planning for the impacts of sea level rise is important to consider. Inundation and higher tidal reach will likely have profound environmental, social, and economic impacts. Understanding how those impacts relate to the roles and responsibilities of local and state government is key to helping residents and elected officials understand the public interest in addressing sea level rise impacts on public *and* private property.

Example of Application

City of Olympia	Disseminated a survey in 2018 to the public which asked respondents to rate a range of consequences from sea level rise and criteria for responding to these impacts from high importance to not important. In this survey the participants were asked about the social, environmental, economic consequences of sea level rise. This approach continues to be an important part of the City’s planning process because it prioritized the values of the community and established different criteria for possible actions in response to sea level rise. Link to the workshop materials and survey results: http://olympiawa.gov/city-utilities/storm-and-surface-water/sea-level-rise/slr-community-involvement.aspx
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Group 2: Managing a dynamic process

Discussion questions

- How do we manage the dynamic nature of sea level rise while also providing a certain level of predictability for shoreline property owners and developers?
- How do we build in a process for integrating emerging science into the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and other planning documents?

Goal: Participants discuss different ideas for building in awareness that sea level rise and its associated risks are an ongoing, evolving process that will require continuous adaptation.

Description: The SMP Guidelines require local governments use “the most current, accurate and complete scientific and technical information available” [WAC 173-26-201(2)(a)]. Jurisdictions like the City of Bellingham, Bremerton, and Tumwater are just a few examples of approaches that allow the flexibility to consider sea level rise and future conditions in their decision making by including explicit language in policy and other local codes.

Examples of Application

Bellingham SMP language	Bellingham SMP>Shoreline Goals and Policies>Shoreline Goals>Flood Damage Minimization>Objective: B: New scientific studies/information on tsunamis and sea level rise should be used to guide shoreline development as it becomes available and accepted as scientifically valid.
Bremerton SMP language	Bremerton SMP>Goals>General Goals>Conservation and Restoration>Goal: 7: Recognize and monitor the potential effects of sea level rise as additional scientific information becomes available. At the next major update of the Shoreline Master Program consider additional specific policies and regulations based on additional scientific projections.
Tumwater Municipal Code	Tumwater Municipal Code>Title 18 Zoning>Chapter 18.38 Floodplain Overlay>18.38.120 New regulatory data.>_G. The floodplain administrator shall use the most restrictive data available for the channel migration zone, floodways, future conditions, and riparian habitat areas.

Group 3: Outreach and education/risk communication

Discussion questions

- What is it that you want to communicate to your community, staff, and elected officials regarding sea level rise?
- What opportunities exist (or need to be created) for sharing this information with internal and external audiences?

Goal: Participants discuss the intended purpose for outreach and education to different audiences, and ideas about what opportunities exist for achieving goals.

Description: Many jurisdictions mentioned that internal consistency among staff and early and transparent conversations with the public is important. Bainbridge Island and King County are examples of communities that have a potential method for using the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) as a tool to improve awareness of sea level rise information to constituents. Kitsap and Mason Counties are examples of local governments that have taken steps to help shape development proposals before significant investment is made to design and submit applications.

Examples of Application

<p>SMP education opportunities</p>	<p>Bainbridge Island SMP>Critical Areas Regulations>Frequently Flooded Areas: Applicants for development in low lying shoreline areas and other areas where flood elevation is controlled by tide level shall be provided with information on sea level rise (Ord. 2005-03 § 2, 2005).</p> <p>King County SMP>Critical Areas Regulations>Shorelines>Stabilization Regulation: The department shall provide a notice to an applicant for new development or redevelopment located within the shoreline jurisdiction on Vashon and Maury Island that the development may be impacted by sea level rise and recommend that the applicant voluntarily consider setting the development back further than required by this title to allow for future sea level rise (Ord. 16985 § 41, 2010: Ord. 5734 § 5, 1981: Ord. 3688 § 413, 1978. Formerly K.C.C. 25.16.180).</p>
<p>SMP pre-application meetings</p>	<p>Kitsap County SMP>22.500 Permit Provisions, Review, and Enforcement>22.500.105 Procedure>B. Pre-application and staff consultations> 2. A staff consultation, described in KCC 21.04.120, is required for any over-water structure, shoreline armoring, or new primary structures or additions within the Standard Buffer (Section 22.400.120(B)(1) of this Program), except where waived by the Department.</p> <p>Kitsap County SMP>22.500 Permit Provisions, Review, and Enforcement>22.500.105 Procedure>B. Pre-application and staff consultations> 1. A pre-application conference, described in KCC 21.04.120, is required when the proposal involves state lands, and is highly recommended for any activities near or below the OHWM. This</p>

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	conference will result in clarification with regard to required permits and potential conditions as recommended by applicable state and tribal agencies.
	Mason County SMP>17.50.400 Permits, Exemptions, and Appeals> A. General Requirements for All Uses and Development> 4. A pre-application conference, as described in MCC 15.05.020, is required for all Type III (which includes proposals that require Shoreline Substantial Development, Conditional Use, and/or Variance) permits.

Group 4: Mainstreaming and linking within -- and beyond -- the Shoreline Master Program

Discussion questions

- As you think about the range of actions that could be taken to address sea level rise, what actions are best suited for the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) versus other regulatory frameworks?
- How do we maximize the benefits of our shoreline management programs when it comes to preparing and adapting to sea level rise?

Goal: Participants have a chance to discuss what the SMP is most suited for and how we might build consistent linkages between the SMP and other regulatory programs affecting the shoreline.

Description: We have learned from local governments that there are many ways to evaluate and minimize the risks from sea level rise. Different types of analyses and actions will be appropriate, depending on the level of planning effort and availability of information and data. Local governments are in the best position to determine how Shoreline Master Program amendments should be incorporated into their overall sea level rise response strategy.

Local governments that have embraced planning for sea level rise point out that shoreline jurisdiction is limited to 200 feet from the waters edge, which in many circumstances will be too narrow to incorporate a comprehensive approach to sea level rise adaptation planning. Typical responses to sea level rise apply both inside and outside shoreline jurisdiction, and may not require amendments to the SMP. As a result, adaptation responses are being addressed through local comprehensive plans, flood ordinances, stormwater management, infrastructure planning, evaluations of utility and service capacity, and other activities. The SMP is just one tool that can be used in conjunction with other planning programs to comprehensively address sea level rise through mitigation, adaptation, and growth management once clear outcomes are defined.

Group 5: Brainstorming Blitz

Discussion question

- What regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to shoreline management should we be considering in the near term and the longer term to reduce the impacts of sea level rise?

Goal: This is a brainstorming free-for-all. Some or many of the ideas will overlap with the above themes. This is a chance to catch the ideas that fall in between, and an opportunity to think big and small.

Description: Zoning overlays, land use planning, and standards are all examples of management approaches to help avoid, minimize, and protect against the impacts of sea level rise. By first identifying and delineating hazardous/vulnerable zones, you can then begin working internally with programs within your local government and externally with constituents in your community to tailor appropriate regulatory and non-regulatory responses. Many regulatory tools may already be in place to address sea level rise impacts. However, many of these tool may need to be revisited and assessed through a future conditions lens (e.g. standards developed through existing Shoreline Designations).

During our interviews, both Thurston County and Tumwater were mentioned for having innovating methods for identifying hazardous flood zones; and King County, Pacific County, Mason County, and Port Angeles all have included land use and development practices for hazard mitigation.

Examples of Application

Zoning	
Thurston County	Special Flood Hazards Area in Thurston County are identified by the following: subject to a base of one-hundred year flood (areas of special flood hazard are shown on a flood hazard boundary map or Flood Insurance Rate Map as Zone A, AO, AE, AR, A99, AH, VE, V), High Ground Water Flood Hazard Areas Resource Map on file with the Resource Stewardship Department, and highest known recorded flood elevation. Permit requirements in unincorporated areas of Thurston County are determined by actual presence and history of flooding.
Tumwater	Tumwater Municipal Code>Title 18 Zoning>Chapter 18.38 Floodplain Overlay>18.38.120 New regulatory data.> G. The floodplain administrator shall use the most restrictive data available for the channel migration zone, floodways, future conditions, and riparian habitat areas.

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Land use and development practices	
King County	<p>King County: 21A.06.490 Flood Protection Elevation: an elevation that is three feet above the base flood elevation. For flood zones that establish flood depths instead of base flood elevations, the flood protection elevation is the depth number specified in feet on the flood insurance rate map plus one foot. The flood protection elevation is measured from the highest adjacent grade of the footprint of the existing or proposed structure. If the flood insurance rate map does not specify a depth, the flood protection elevation is at least two feet as measured from the highest adjacent grade of the footprint of the existing or proposed structure. (Ord. 16686 § 1, 2009: Ord. 16267 § 12, 2008: Ord. 15051 § 52, 2004: Ord. 10870 § 138, 1993)</p>
Pacific County	<p>Pacific County Ordinance 180>Critical Areas and Resource Land Section>8. Geologically Hazardous Areas>C. Protection Standards>2. Additional Development Standards for Coastal Erosion Hazards Areas</p> <p>a. With the exception of public infrastructure and in-water erosion control measures, the foundation of any new or expanded structure shall be located outside the North Cove Wash-Away Beach Erosion Hazard Area.</p> <p>c. Subdivisions. The division of land in coastal erosion hazard areas and setbacks is subject to the following: i. Land that is located wholly within a coastal erosion hazard area or its setback may not be subdivided. Land that is located partially within a coastal erosion hazard area or its setback may be divided, provided that each resulting lot has sufficient buildable area outside of, and will not affect, the coastal erosion hazard area or its setback. ii. Access roads and utilities may be permitted within the coastal erosion hazard area and associated setback if the Administrator determine that no other feasible alternative exists.</p>
Mason County Geotech Report	<p>Mason County SMP> SMP> Shoreline Stabilization> Shoreline Stabilization – Regulations: a. When a Geotechnical Report or Geological Assessment is required for primary structures and appurtenances per the Landslide Hazard, Erosion Hazard, or Seismic Hazard Chapters of the Resource Ordinance, in addition to the requirements in 8.52.140, they shall consider sea level rise, if applicable, and include the following:</p>
Port Angeles Geotech Report	<p>Port Angeles SMP>General Policies and Regulations>Critical Areas (Geologically Hazardous Areas)>Regulation: Proposals requiring a variance for development within 65 feet of the top of a marine bluff as outlined above shall be required to submit a geotechnical engineering report, prepared in accordance with the requirements of this SMP and Title 15, PAMC.</p> <p>The geotechnical engineering report shall: include coastal erosion rates over at least 75 years, based in part on anticipated sea level rise and storm frequency</p>