

# Georgia Basin/Puget Sound International Task Force



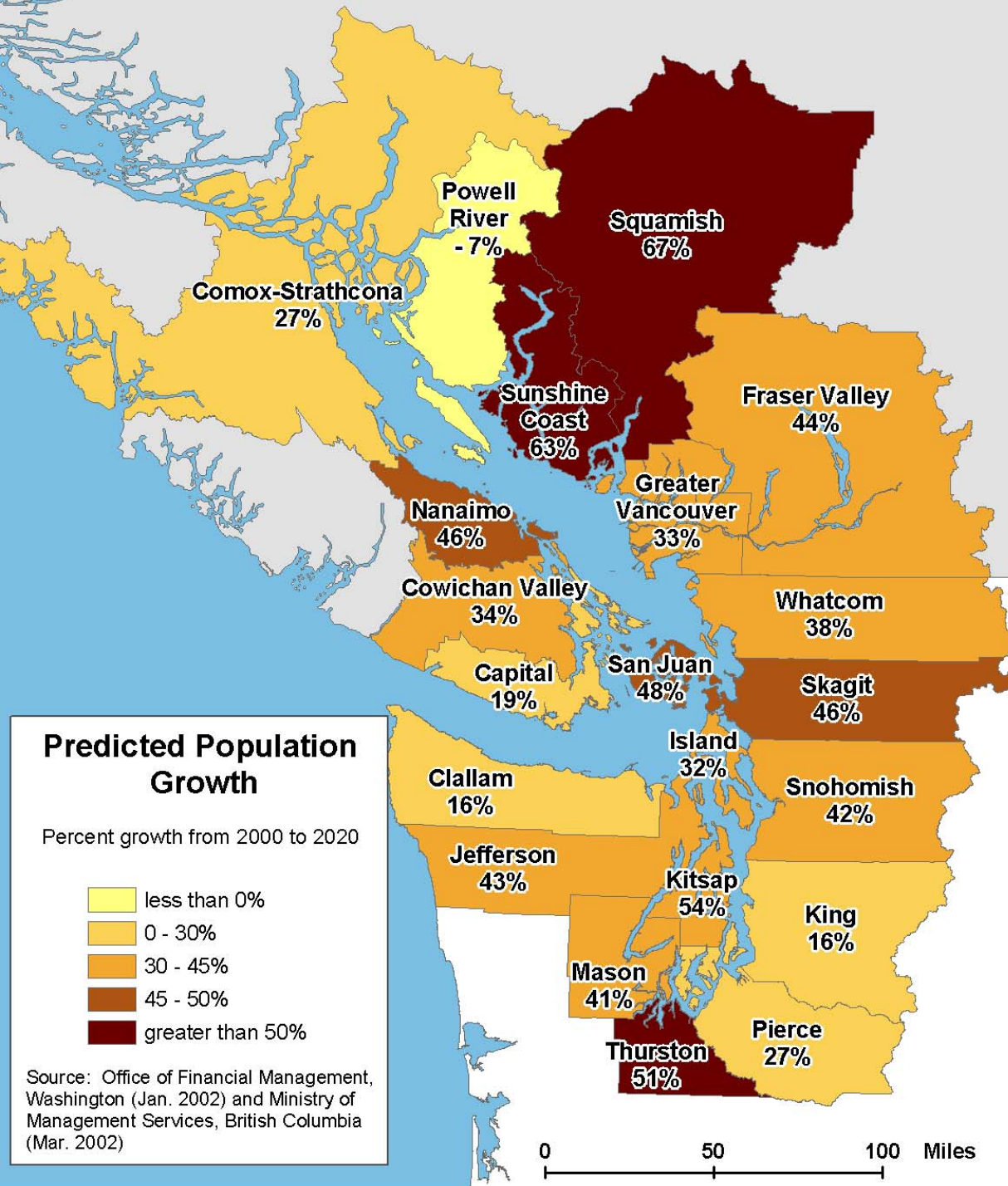
ECC Update  
April 2003

**The Shared  
Waters of the  
Georgia Basin —  
Puget Sound**



# Georgia Basin - Puget Sound

- Land development
- Increased wastewater
- Increased stormwater



# History



- ◆ Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Work Group established (*1992*)
- ◆ Marine Science Panel (*May 1993*)
  - ◆ Report on the state of the marine environment in shared waters
  - ◆ Identify trends in aquatic and biological conditions
- ◆ Symposium on Marine Environment (*January 1994*)
- ◆ Marine Science Panel Report (*September 1994*)
  - ◆ 12 priority recommendations

## Priority Issues

- ◆ Minimizing habitat loss.
- ◆ Establishing marine protected areas.
- ◆ Protecting marine plants and animals.
- ◆ Minimizing the introduction of non-native species.

## Secondary Priorities

- ◆ Controlling toxic wastes.
- ◆ Coordinating monitoring and research needs.
- ◆ Strategic planning in the shared waters.



# Task Force Goal

*To promote and coordinate mutual efforts to ensure the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the shared inland marine environment.*

- ◆ Develop and coordinate actions to address MSP recommendations.
- ◆ Facilitate implementation of activities and recommendations.
- ◆ Aggressively pursue funding for priority transboundary projects.
- ◆ Promote communication and coordination among agencies across the border.
- ◆ Communicate with the public.
- ◆ Identify and respond to new transboundary issues in the shared waters.

# Current Member Agencies

## ◆ Canada/British Columbia

BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management; Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada; Parks Canada; Environment Canada

## ◆ U.S./Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NOAA), Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources; National Marine Fisheries Service; Northwest Straits Commission

## ◆ First Nations

Coast Salish Sea Council

NW Indian Fisheries Commission

# Current Status

1. Toxics: nearing completion of reports.
2. Protect Marine Life: continue progress on spp. by spp. management (e.g rockfish) - BC Phase II report .
3. Non-Indigenous Species: significant progress on ballast issues and education, work continues on managing other pathways.
4. Marine Protected Areas: Continue work on respective MPA strategies
5. Nearshore Habitat Loss: Strategies completed and implementation underway.



# Re-vitalizing the Task Force

- Re-evaluate Task Force priorities
- Update work group recommendations
- Increased emphasis on joint priorities/actions
- Consider developing 10 year projections of current marine health trends
- Develop 10 year report
- Reconvene research and monitoring working group to focus on trans-boundary monitoring



# New Issues For ITF

- The relationship between species specific management and Marine Protected Areas
- Policy issues raised by Trans-boundary Indicators
- General regime shifts in the Shared Waters
- Co-ordination of Species recovery strategies
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Orca Pass working group
- Terrestrial issues





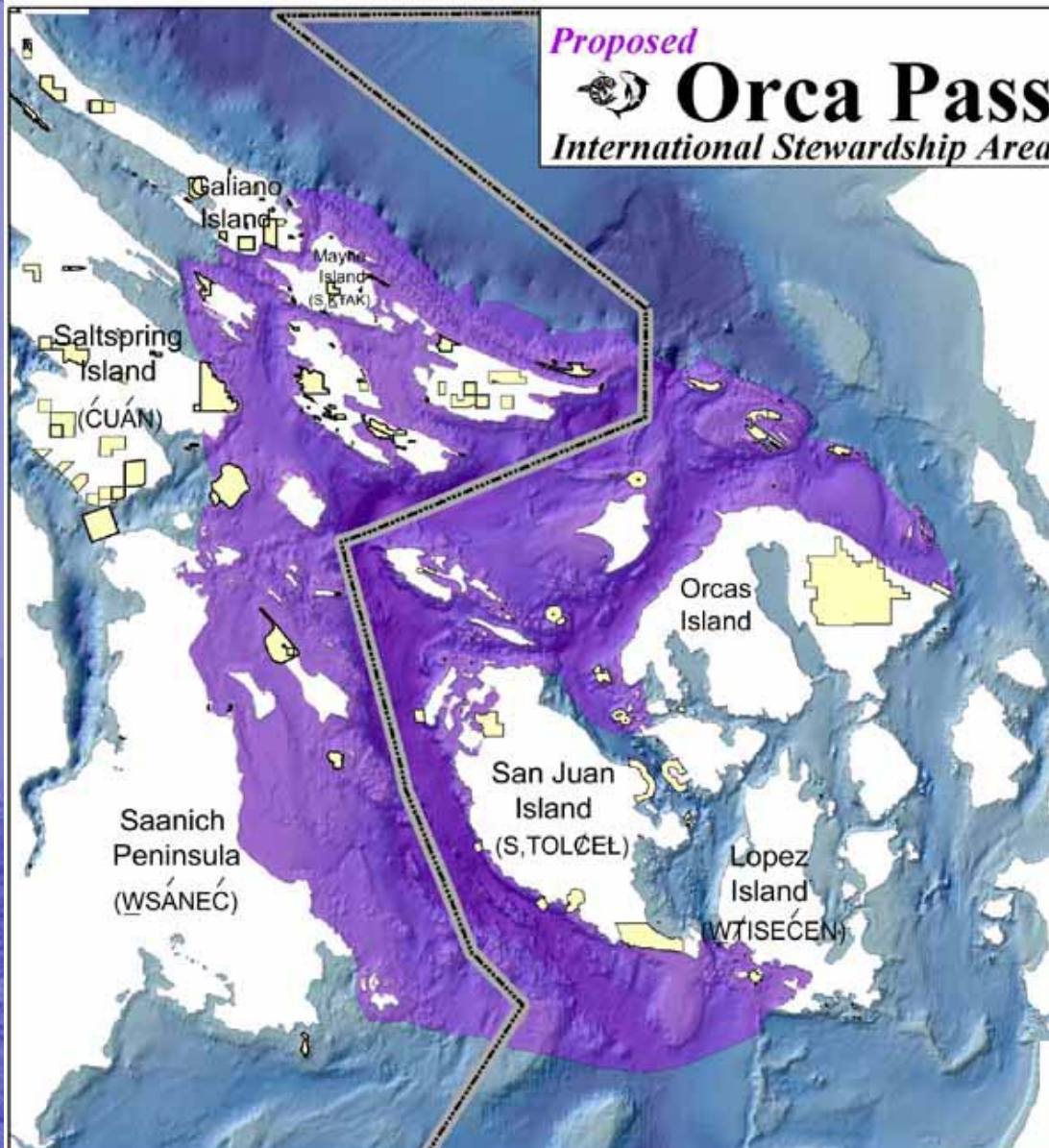
- Local transboundary stewardship initiative
- Developed by Islands Trust, San Juan County, and member agencies from the Sound and Straits Coalition, the Georgia Strait Alliance and People for Puget Sound
- Fits with the MSP panel's vision to establish a transboundary MPA
- The task force seeks to recognize this effort and encourage local stewardship initiatives.

*Proposed*



# Orca Pass

*International Stewardship Area*



## Legend

### Orca Pass

Area Of Interest

Existing Protected Areas

International Border

### Depth

Shallow water

Deep water

0 2.5 5 Miles

0 4 8 Kilometers

## Orca Pass Area of Interest

Named in honor of the whales that often travel through these waters, the proposed Orca Pass International Stewardship Area is an area of conservation interest. We are examining Orca Pass to identify targeted spots that, if properly managed, would protect the marine environment and preserve scenic beauty. Orca Pass also links the people who live on both sides of the border, and is designed to enlist local citizens and governments in long-term stewardship of this remarkably beautiful and diverse region. First Nations and tribes have traditional and treaty rights and management roles that must be included in any conservation plan for Orca Pass.

# Task Force Decisions



Affirm support for the proponents' efforts to protect the shared waters.

Encourage the development of specific proposals.

Continue to track the initiative.

Look for opportunities to link the local stewardship activities with agency programs.

Raise awareness of Orca Pass within government.

Provide access to data and information required for the development of specific proposals.

# Challenges Facing the Task Force

- ◆ Limited existing resources in a period of fiscal restraint – “corner of the desk”
- ◆ Public participation limited,— need for improved public awareness
- ◆ Learning to cope with fragmented jurisdictions and differences in mandates
- ◆ Commitment and participation by members on TF and work group varies
- ◆ Implementation of recommended actions is a challenge/opportunity