



**PUGET
SOUNDKEEPER®**



2022 IMPACT REPORT

Celebrating 50 Years of the Clean Water Act

www.pugetsoundkeeper.org



Puget Soundkeeper acknowledges that we are on the land of many Coast Salish peoples and their ancestors. We acknowledge the past and present harms to Indigenous and marginalized peoples, and the land and waters of this region. We honor the ancestors and those today who continue to steward the land and the Salish Sea. We pledge to care for this ecosystem by taking action to protect and enhance our shared waters.

MISSION

Puget Soundkeeper’s mission is to protect and enhance the waters of Puget Sound for the health and restoration of our aquatic ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

VISION

We envision Puget Sound teeming with diverse marine life and providing safe opportunities for swimming, fishing, recreation, and sustainable economic activity. We seek a Sound that supports the lifeways and traditional cultural practices of Indigenous peoples, provides all communities with a clean, healthy place to live and work, and once again is home to an abundance of salmon and orca.

WELCOME TO PUGET SOUNDKEEPER’S
2022 IMPACT REPORT



This past year was an auspicious one thanks in large part to the Clean Water Act’s 50th anniversary, but also because of the major victories and lasting change made in Puget Sound protection and restoration.

When Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972 it represented a sea change in how we as a nation invest in infrastructure, manage pollution, and facilitate community involvement and enforcement for local watershed protection.

Puget Soundkeeper has been working since 1984 to activate the Act for the communities and ecosystems of the Sound. We leverage the law, science, and public education to ensure that our systems here in Washington State are protective of the people, plants and aquatic life that depend on clean water.

Our celebration of the Act’s 50th anniversary started out with a huge win when the Puget Sound “No Discharge Zone” was durably and finally locked in. Soundkeeper and our partners fought for years to ensure the Sound wasn’t impacted by vessels dumping sewage into our shared waters. We also issued the third iteration of our Nature’s Scorecard report tracking how cities and counties around the Sound implement their stormwater permits and reviewing their progress toward environmental justice and salmon protection goals.

Later in 2022 the state stepped up and banned net pen aquaculture, and the federal government finalized new human health standards; two moves which will protect sustenance and Tribal fishers. Most recently, our partners at the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT) celebrated the state’s decision to end the failed Capitol Lake experiment and restore the Deschutes estuary in the South Sound.

At Puget Soundkeeper, we launched our first environmental enforcement action with youth leaders from South King County acting as standing affiants, launched a brand-new pollution reporting handbook, came together for our first in-person Salute to the Sound in three years, brought back our flagship July 5th Lake Union post-fireworks cleanup event, and took the first steps in the nation toward holding polluters and agencies accountable for salmon-killing 6PPD-quinone discharges from roadways.

The Soundkeeper community is the driving force behind our successes. Together, we’ve made lasting clean water progress in 2022, and we’re not slowing down in 2023.

Thank you for all you do for the Sound, and we’ll see you on the water.

Sean Dixon
Puget Soundkeeper Executive Director

OUR STRATEGIES



The Long Game

This year brought closure and long-awaited victories for two critical issues: sewage discharges from boats and updates to Washington’s Water Quality Standards.

Puget Soundkeeper and our partners fought in court to uphold Puget Sound’s No Discharge Zone (NDZ), a ruling that prohibits dumping raw or partially treated sewage from boats and ships into Puget Sound. The U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. gave clean water advocates a valentine when it ruled late on February 14th, 2022 against ten years of industry-led attacks. Puget Sound’s NDZ is the first in Washington State, joining 90 other Zones across the nation.

The Environmental Protection Agency issued its final ruling on Washington’s Water Quality Standards in November 2022, reinstating science-based criteria designed to protect people from toxic pollution.



Reinstating these standards is an environmental justice issue because the impacts of accumulated toxicity in fish and shellfish are felt most acutely by Tribal members, other Indigenous people, immigrant groups, and subsistence fishers.”

KATELYN KINN
SENIOR ATTORNEY AND DIRECTOR OF LAW & POLICY

Soundkeeper and its partners sued the EPA in 2020 for dismantling laws that were meant to protect “fishable” waters and, subsequently, the health of people who eat fish and shellfish.

However, the work to protect Washington’s fishable waters and the communities that depend on fish and shellfish is far from over. EPA must take separate and prompt action to establish criteria for 6PPD and 6PPD-quinone, as well as a host of PFAS compounds.

Policy Change in Olympia

In 2023, Puget Soundkeeper will lead a coalition on its own bill for the first time. This bill gathers bipartisan support to expand pumpout opportunities for recreational boaters, further protecting our waters from sewage pollution and increasing compliance with Washington’s No Discharge Zone. The Orca Salmon Alliance has adopted this request as a priority item for the legislative session, meaning Soundkeeper will have the collective power of many clean water partners supporting its bill.

Soundkeeper continues to work alongside colleagues in the Plastic Free Washington/Washington Sin Plástico coalition on behalf of the WRAP Act to bring Extended Producer Responsibility to Washington. The WRAP Act will give all Washingtonians equal access to blue bins, incentivize the use of compostable and recyclable packaging, and require producers to take responsibility for the full lifecycle of their packaging products. The coalition is also running a bill to reduce plastic waste by banning mini-personal care packaging, requiring water bottle refill stations in new construction buildings where water fountains are required, and banning foam docks and floats.

Soundkeeper supports Sound Action, Seattle Aquarium, Audubon Washington, and Friends of the San Juans on a bill that would direct the Department of Ecology to conduct a comprehensive shoreline survey and use the imagery to document and map existing shoreline conditions and structures. Soundkeeper will support a Department of Natural Resources budget request to remove aquatic derelict structures, including the numerous large tire reefs that continuously pollute our waters.

Puget Soundkeeper joined the Environmental Priorities Coalition in 2022 to collectively lobby for a host of priority environmental protection bills in 2023, including the WRAP Act. Soundkeeper will be a leadership partner for EPC’s Lobby Day for the first time, giving clean water advocates additional opportunities to engage with their elected officials in 2023.



I support and volunteer with Puget Soundkeeper because it’s our duty to protect and maintain safe access to waterways.”

AMANDA LEE
PUGET SOUNDKEEPER VOLUNTEER



Lost Urban Creeks

Puget Soundkeeper’s Lost Urban Creeks (LUC) program prepares the next generation of clean water stewards through paid water quality monitoring and pollution prevention training. LUC youth leaders represent Puget Soundkeeper at conferences and city council meetings, and engage the public during cleanups, community outreach events, and media campaigns. They are deeply invested in stewarding Springbrook Creek, which flows through Kent and Renton, WA. Unleash The Brilliance, a youth mentoring group in South King County, recruits LUC participants from surrounding communities.

Your gift removes marine debris from local waterways and supports youth engagement efforts like LUC. Give today at pugetsoundkeeper.org/donate.

LITIGATION

Puget Soundkeeper enforces the Clean Water Act through lawsuits against the most egregious violators. We scrutinize clean water pollution permits to ensure CWA goals are met, monitor facilities across Puget Sound for CWA compliance, and take polluters and government agencies to court to enforce the law.

Soundkeeper enforced the Clean Water Act against six pollution dischargers between December 2021 and November 2022, securing resolutions requiring substantial pollutant reduction measures and payments to third party community projects totaling \$375,000 in the same period.

LEADING THE WAY

LOST URBAN CREEKS (LUC) grew in new and exciting ways during 2022. LUC interns participated in a stormwater litigation case against Bimbo Bakeries and became the first youth willing to act as standing witnesses in Soundkeeper’s history. They learned about the legal process for the case, reviewed the initial intent to sue, and participated in a site visit.

Soundkeeper reached a resolution with Bimbo Bakeries in August 2022 and the company funded a green stormwater infrastructure project as part of its legal settlement. LUC interns gained hands-on experience building two Grattix boxes, essentially a raingarden in a box, at Equinox Studios in the Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle.

LUC interns analyzed Springbrook Creek water quality monitoring data from the past two years as part of their summer research. They released a public report in August and presented their research to the Kent City Council and the Renton Utilities Committee in December 2022. Their presentations focused on specific findings and recommendations for actions both cities should take to restore and protect the Springbrook Creek Watershed, including improving culverts, addressing low summer flows, and restoring surrounding habitat.



“
We’ve done a lot of work to monitor water quality on Springbrook Creek, and we’ve seen first-hand how bad it can be. It was really interesting to learn a new skill and build something that will positively impact water quality.”

SHARLENE PIOQUINTO
LOST URBAN CREEKS INTERN



Stewardship

Thousands of volunteers and dozens of businesses, agencies, and organizations join Puget Soundkeeper each year for hundreds of cleanups on land and on the water. As regional leaders for the International Coastal Cleanup, a global effort to track pollution in our waterways, Soundkeeper’s cleanups help remove trash and push policy change.

Soundkeeper’s annual salmon survey volunteers contribute data to more than 15 years of research tracking coho salmon Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome in West Seattle’s Longfellow Creek. Additional community science projects include mussel monitoring for toxic chemicals in our waterways (in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife), and microplastic sampling around the Sound.

“
When the rains return, I’m reminded of the importance of clean water for our finned relatives in the Puget Sound and its tributaries. I often return to Japanese, Big, and Lund’s Gulches where I led students through annual salmon counts for nearly a decade. I greet the new generation of fish with gratitude.”

THOMAS MURPHY
PUGET SOUNDKEEPER MEMBER AND FORMER CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT EDMONDS COLLEGE



CLEAN WATER ACT AT 50

Restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters

The 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA) proposed to control pollution at its source, protecting and restoring our nation's interconnected waters. It aimed to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into our waters by 1985. As it was intended, the CWA was visionary in its scope and goal. Yet 50 years later success remains out of reach as legacy and emerging contaminants continue to threaten our waterways.

Puget Sound is at risk without clean water protection

Over four million people, or 70% of Washington's population, live in the Puget Sound region, alongside collapsing orca populations and shrinking salmon runs. The Sound hosts increasing vessel traffic and is burdened by aging infrastructure. Ten thousand rivers and streams drain 42,800 square kilometers of watershed across more than 2,500 miles of waterfront. Resilient, healthy ecosystems and communities cannot flourish in any corner of our enormous watershed without clean water monitoring and enforcement undergirded by a strong federal Clean Water Act.

Puget Soundkeeper has been working to enforce the Clean Water Act since 1984 by improving the permits and regulations implementing the Act, and educating and informing the public about its laudable, but long-unmet, goals. From climate change and microplastics to PCBs, antibiotics, nutrients, and salmon-killing chemicals in tires, we don't have 50 more years to wait for success. After almost 200 enforcement lawsuits and dozens of challenges to state and federal programs, Soundkeeper is as active as ever, working to protect our Sound's clean water future.

Against the Current: Protecting Clean Water in Puget Sound

Puget Soundkeeper premiered *Against the Current: Protecting Clean Water in Puget Sound* at the 2022 Salute to the Sound gala. This short film, created in collaboration with filmmaker Hannah Letinich, weaves together the distinct voices of our incredible partners across the Green-Duwamish watershed. Their stories stem from a shared love of place and an urgent understanding that we cannot wait 50 more years for clean water.

MEET THE STARS OF OUR FILM



Sharlene Pioquinto
Lost Urban Creeks
youth leader
Emanuel Chavez
Lost Urban Creeks
youth leader



Anand Jayakaran
Professor and
Stormwater Specialist,
Washington State
University



Paulina López
Executive Director,
Duwamish River
Community Coalition



Katelyn Kinn
Senior Attorney &
Director of Law and
Policy, Puget
Soundkeeper



Greg Wingard
President, Green River
Coalition & Executive
Director, Waste Action
Project

BY THE NUMBERS



228
volunteer events

2,601
volunteers



3
Clean Water Act enforcement
actions settled



360
comments urging WA lawmakers
to pass 2022's RENEW Act and
revolutionize recycling



10,449
pounds of marine debris
removed from waterways and
shorelines



57
pollution reports escalated to
the responsible authorities



43,788,541
gallons of polluted stormwater
treated



\$375,000
directed toward community-led
clean water projects

PROTECTING SALMON



Each autumn, teams of dedicated Puget Soundkeeper volunteers brave chilly weather to walk a short section of Longfellow creek, also known as tʔáwi (pronounced t-AH-wee) in Lushootseed. They're searching for returning coho salmon that have spawned and completed their lifecycle in the creek. But far more often, they find fish prematurely dead from Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome (URMS). These coho died from exposure to toxic stormwater before they had a chance to spawn.

URMS is caused by 6PPD-quinone, the derivative of chemical tire additive 6PPD when it interacts with ozone. Coho salmon are especially sensitive to 6PPD-quinone and usually die within hours of encountering toxic stormwater laden with the chemical. Soundkeeper volunteers consistently find URMS rates of 80% or higher.

Urban salmon streams are something to cherish and protect. This summer, Soundkeeper issued Clean Water Act notices of intent to sue five municipalities: Seattle, Mukilteo, Normandy Park, Burien, and Seatac. These municipalities failed to control and report stormwater discharges into three

urban salmon streams—Pipers Creek, Big Gulch, and Miller Creek—despite knowing that road runoff is discharged from their streets and kills coho salmon in these waterways. Soundkeeper also petitioned the Department of Ecology to step up its oversight and management of stormwater in Longfellow Creek.

Decades of companion studies consistently show that green infrastructure installations that filter polluted stormwater through mixtures of soils and sands can effectively manage 6PPD-quinone and mitigate its deadly impact on salmon, as well as bull trout and steelhead. This urgent problem has a solution. In 2023, Soundkeeper will be working tirelessly in court, in our streams, in Olympia, and at our state and federal agencies to protect salmon from 6PPD.

Help protect salmon. Visit pugetsoundkeeper.org/donate to support our work.

STORMWATER SOLUTIONS

Over a century of land development has interrupted Puget Sound's natural water cycle. Paved surfaces and hard rooftops prevent rain from soaking into the soil. Instead, rainwater rushes through our streets and storm drains, carrying pollution directly to local waterways. Communities and wildlife bear the burden of toxic stormwater, the number one source of pollution in Puget Sound.

Western Washington stormwater permits legally require many municipalities to stop stormwater pollution from entering Puget Sound. Green stormwater infrastructure, like rain gardens and porous pavement, mimics the natural water cycle, protecting water quality, reducing toxic pollution and urban flooding, and making neighborhoods more livable, walkable, and resilient.

Soundkeeper challenged Washington's 2019 stormwater permit because it doesn't protect water quality to the level required by federal and state law. This deficiency endangers our waterways and the human and ecological communities that depend on clean water. Soundkeeper is providing early input on the state's 2024 permit and pushing for a host of

improvements, some of which would be implemented for the first time. These include provisions protecting endangered species and safeguarding impaired waterways, and timely improvements to management practices like street sweeping and green infrastructure.

In May 2022, Puget Soundkeeper and Washington Environmental Council released a report called Nature's Scorecard 2022: Local Stormwater Pollution Controls. This report details regional progress toward implementing structural stormwater controls that filter out pollutants and/or slow the flow of stormwater to ensure treatment or prevent flooding.

There was no single public-facing source compiling data about these projects across jurisdictions until Soundkeeper and its partners launched our biannual Nature's Scorecard. Unfortunately, this year's report found no evidence that current regulatory requirements or approaches to stormwater control are benefiting overall Puget Sound water quality.

Learn more at natureesscorecard.org.



SETTING A PRECEDENT

The Suquamish Tribe, Puget Soundkeeper, Washington Environmental Council, and the State of Washington settled with the United States Navy in January 2020, resolving alleged hull scraping of an inactive aircraft carrier docked at the Navy’s facility in Bremerton. The lawsuit alleged that the Navy performed the scraping without a federal permit and released toxic metals into Sinclair Inlet in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Sinclair Inlet is a Superfund Site and has been part of the Suquamish Tribe’s traditional fishing area since time immemorial. Tribal fishers continue to exercise their Treaty-reserved fishing rights in the waterway.

The court order contains a ten-year moratorium on in-water hull cleaning. This restriction is proving workable for the Navy, which scraped the USS Kittyhawk inside the facility’s onsite drydock in 2021.

The court also ordered the Navy to spread a layer of six-to-nine inches of clean sand, called “thin layer placement” (TLP), over eight acres of the sediment floor in Sinclair Inlet. This was determined to be the least destructive method to control pollution from hull scraping and help with the recovery of marine life. The TLP took place in September 2022, as one of several agreements in the settlement.

Significant public and Tribal funds have been spent to clean up contamination in Sinclair Inlet, and Soundkeeper is proud to have worked alongside the Suquamish Tribe and our other partners to help set a precedent that the United States Navy must adhere to the Clean Water Act. The moratorium on in-water hull cleaning will continue to restrict the Navy’s activities in Sinclair Inlet until at least 2030. In the meantime, the Navy will be evaluating underwater hull cleaning technology advancements and providing updates to Soundkeeper and partners on a regular basis.



REMEDIATING BROWNFIELDS

Puget Soundkeeper partners with the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment to distribute settlement money from legal victories. Together, the organizations have directed over \$10 million in microgrants for community clean water projects since 1986.

Rose Foundation grantee Mini Mart City Park is a “green” building and pocket park for the arts, education, environmental action, and community

collaboration in the Duwamish Valley. Artists John Sutton, Ben Beres, and Zac Culler, of the artist group SuttonBeresCuller initiated MMCP in 2005.

MMCP sits on a former gas station site—designated as a brownfield leaking petroleum into the groundwater—in the Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle. Gasoline contamination starts about 20 feet down in the soil. The artist team worked to implement a system called air sparging that, very simply, exerts pressurized air into

SALUTE TO THE SOUND 2022



Thank you for a wonderful evening!

Puget Soundkeeper staff and board members were thrilled to welcome a packed house to celebrate our first in-person gala in two years, along with the Clean Water Act’s 50th anniversary.

We honored Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Administrator Casey Sixkiller and Unleash The Brilliance founder Terrell Dorsey, and remembered the extraordinary contributions of late board member Ross Chambers.

Soundkeeper extends its gratitude to our volunteers, guests, sponsors, staff, board members, and everyone working behind the scenes to make Salute to the Sound a memorable evening.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR!

Salute to the Sound
Saturday, October 14, 2023



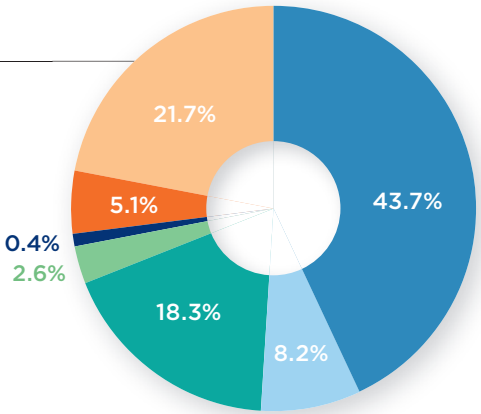
the ground to “wake up” bacteria. These bacteria start the chemical process of breaking down contaminants. A pipe sucks up the chemical off-gassing in a passive, long-term system.

The building implements more traditional green infrastructure like a green roof, vegetated walls, rain gardens, and permeable pavement. After opening to the public in the summer of 2022, Mini Mart City Park is now a Duwamish Valley hub for arts and the environment.

2021 FINANCIALS

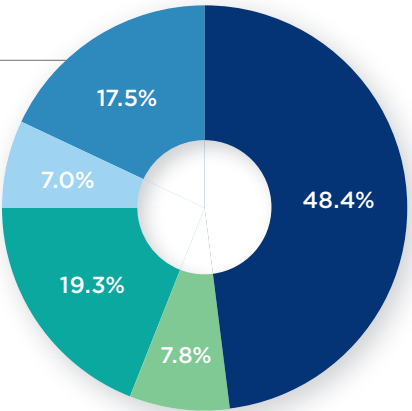
INCOME: \$1,260,768

Foundation Support	\$ 550,702
Business & Corporate Support	103,548
Individual Support	230,943
Government Grants	32,450
EarthShare Income	5,623
Special Events Net Income	63,974
Interest & Other Income	273,529



EXPENSES: \$1,245,601

Soundkeeper Program	\$ 603,289
Outreach Program	97,053
Pollution Prevention Program	240,925
Management & General	86,650
Fund Development	217,684



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patricia Baird
President

Tom Putnam
Secretary

Ned Johnson
Treasurer

Glenn Bonci
Stephanie Burns
Jonathan Frodge

David Garton
Elana Garton
Peter Klopchic
Jonathan McKee

Sara Parker
Kate Pflaumer
Tiffany Sevilla
Florence Smith
Katrin Sukola
Walt Tabler

STAFF

Julie Angell
Operations Director

Sean Dixon
Soundkeeper & Executive Director

Anna Bachmann
Clean Water Program Director

Molly Bidwell
AmeriCorps Outreach & Engagement
Coordinator

Blair Englebrecht
Boating Programs & Policy Manager

Katelyn Kinn
Senior Attorney & Director of Law
and Policy

Stefani León
Membership & Office Manager

Nicole Loeffler-Gladstone
Communications Manager

Elif Myers
AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator

Teresa Nelson
Development Director





130 Nickerson Street, Suite 107
Seattle, WA 98109

206.297.7002
pugetsoundkeeper.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT NO. 2138

