



PUGET
SOUNDKEEPER®

2026 State Legislative Agenda

for a vibrant, healthy Puget Sound



Protecting and Enhancing the Waters of Puget Sound

Puget Soundkeeper is a trusted leader and collaborator for all communities, in court and on the water, fighting for a healthy Puget Sound for over 40 years.

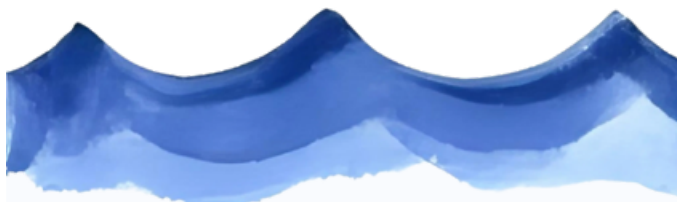
Our 2026 State Legislative Agenda presents strategic opportunities for the Washington legislature to advance our vision of a Puget Sound where clean water sustains vibrant ecosystems and fosters equitable, thriving communities.

Prevent toxic PPDs from entering our waterways

Toxic PPD chemicals shed from tires and enter our waterways through stormwater runoff. The transformation product of 6PPD, 6PPD-quinone, has been linked to widespread harm to coho salmon and other species. PPD chemicals are added to all tires manufactured worldwide, and toxic tire wear pollution enters our shared waterways from myriad point and non-point source discharges throughout the state. Puget Soundkeeper and our partners are working together to determine a legislative solution that addresses this urgent environmental threat.

Authorize the WA Attorney General to take stronger action against environmental criminals (Trudeau/Mena)

Protection of Puget Sound relies on the state's ability to hold polluters accountable. By making intentional air, water, and waste violations felony offenses, this bill ensures that those who knowingly harm our environment face real consequences. It empowers the Attorney General to take stronger action against bad actors and brings Washington in line with federal environmental protections. By targeting deliberate pollution, this measure defends our communities, our natural resources, and the integrity of our environmental laws.



Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC)

Puget Soundkeeper is a proud member of the Environmental Priorities Coalition, a partnership of 27 statewide organizations united around shared legislative priorities to advance meaningful environmental action in Washington.

The 2026 EPC Priorities are:

1. **Protecting Climate and Environmental Health Funding**
2. **Restore Wildfire Resilience Funding**
3. **Bottles & Cans Recycling Refund Act**
4. **Data Centers, Environmental Protection, and Affordability**

Support plastic reduction bills to limit litter pollution (Multiple bills)

While Puget Soundkeeper and partners work tirelessly to clean up marine debris, we continue to find plastic along the shores and floating in waters across the Puget Sound. Plastic harms fish and wildlife through ingestion, entanglement, and habitat degradation. As part of the Plastic Free WA Coalition, Puget Soundkeeper supports a group of bills that target plastic pollution at its source. Puget Soundkeeper supports bills that would establish the Bottles and Cans Recycling Refund Act (SB 5502 / HB 1607, Robinson/Stonier) to dramatically cut beverage container litter and boost recycling rates, expand the litter tax to fund more cleanup efforts, improve the plastic bag ban to reduce unnecessary plastic waste, and ban intentional balloon releases -- which harm wildlife and cause pollution.

Ban toxic scrubber fluid discharges from ships (HB 1652/ SB 5519, Lekanoff/Lovelett)

Ships use scrubbers to remove sulfur from their exhaust—but instead of eliminating pollution, they dump it into our waters. Scrubber pollution contains heavy metals and other contaminants that harm marine life, threaten public health, degrade Tribal treaty-reserved fishing waters, and contribute to ocean acidification.

Proclaim an annual “Puget Sound and the Salish Sea Day” (Zahn)

Puget Sound and the Salish Sea Day would be an opportunity to celebrate environmental wins and the maritime communities whose livelihoods depend on clean, healthy waters. By celebrating this day on the first Saturday of June, we can help foster stewardship and deepen our commitment to protect Puget Sound and the Salish Sea for future generations.

Designate the sixgill shark as the official state shark (Frame/Reeves)

Puget Sound is believed to be the natal waters of sixgill sharks—a place where they return to give birth before heading back to the open ocean. By recognizing the sixgill, we affirm our shared responsibility to keep Puget Sound healthy and alive—for us, for them, and for the future of Washington



A trusted collaborator in the Sound

Puget Soundkeeper is a proud member of the following coalitions:

- Environmental Priorities Coalition
- Plastic Free Washington Coalition
- King County International Airport Community Coalition
- Orca Salmon Alliance

We are honored to work alongside the WA Waterkeeper Alliance member entities:

- Spokane Riverkeeper
- Columbia Riverkeeper
- Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- North Sound Waterkeeper
- Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team

Learn more: www.pugetsoundkeeper.org

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