

This briefing provides information to prepare for discussions at the November 2024 HSIAT meeting for the two main discussion topics.

1. HSIL Members Discuss the HSIL Fall Forum

The HSIL hosted the HSIL Fall Forum: Planning for sea level rise and climate related hazards to nearshore habitat in Puget Sound October 24-25, 2024. The forum was a two-day event with approximately 200 attendees engaged in a mix of presentations, panel discussions, and break out groups. The Forum agenda is [available here](#) and should be reviewed prior to the HSIAT November meeting for context.

HSIL and the Forum Planning Committee will be synthesizing the presentation, panel, and break out group information into a report to share with the wider recovery community. The current timeline is for a draft to be available at the end of January 2025. Additionally, presentation and panel sessions were recorded and HSIL hopes to make these available through the WDFW YouTube Channel.

HSIAT members who attended the Fall Forum will be asked to lead a discussion among HSIAT members to share out and consider next steps or opportunities.

Prompts for HSIAT members who attended the Forum:

- What were some of the insights, new information, or opportunities you heard during panel discussions, presentations, and conversations during the event?
- What did you hear during the barriers break out group on day 1?
- What solutions break out group did you participate in during day 2 and what was discussed?
- What most excited you during the event?
- What opportunities did you see for yourselves, the HSIAT, or the HSIL that you would like the group to think about and consider for next steps?

HSIAT members who did not attend the Fall Forum should review the [Forum agenda](#) as well as the HSIAT strategic planning discussion notes from [April 2024](#) and [May 2024](#). Come with questions for the HSIAT members who attended the Forum and prepare to reflect and engage in a conversation with them on opportunities and next steps.

2. HSIAT 2025 Opportunities and Planning

The HSIL staff would like to discuss with HSIAT members opportunities to continue to learn from partners and provide input to shape Puget Sound habitat recovery planning and investments. HSIL would also like feedback on HSIAT meeting structure and scheduling and the areas for learning and input below.

Areas for learning and input:

- *Action Agenda Update for 2026-2030 Action Agenda* – The Puget Sound Partnership is leading the update of the Action Agenda from January 2025-June 2026. The HSIL team is

supporting the update of specific topics (currently named “strategies”) in the Action Agenda. Habitat Topics led by HSIL are: Smart Growth, Working Lands (Agriculture), Working Lands (Forests), Heathy Shorelines, Floodplains and Estuaries. Additionally, the Marine Vegetation topic will be updated using the process for the Implementation Strategy development (below). Additional topics related to habitat that will be led by PSP or other partners include Riparian and Fish Passage. While the process for updating the topics is still under development, the current objective between January 2025-March 2025 is to:

- evaluate progress on the 2022-2026 Action Agenda.
- update topics and related strategies and actions as needed to address progress, new information, and integrate climate change and human wellbeing more explicitly into existing topics.

Currently, the HSIL will lead the update of specific topics informed by input from subject matter experts during a 3-hour (minimum duration) virtual workshop as well as written content feedback.

Proposed engagement from HSIAT: HSIL requests each HSIAT member to engage the update of at least one HSIL-led topic through virtual workshop participation through March 2025 or engage in the Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy development if you already participate in existing workgroups that will be engaged. As the process for the Action Agenda continues to evolve, this request may change.

- ***Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy Development*** – HSIL has engaged the HSIAT on the process to develop the Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy (June 2024). HSIL staff have been working with a core team to synthesize information from existing kelp and eelgrass strategies into a draft working version of a Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy. HSIL will be engaging partners through existing work groups throughout January to May 2025. If HSIAT members already attend existing kelp, eelgrass, and nearshore working groups that will be engaged (e.g. PSEMP Nearshore workgroup, Puget Sound Kelp Plan Workgroup, DNR Kelp and Eelgrass Health and Conservation Workgroup, Transboundary Salish Sea Eelgrass Protection Workgroup, WA Kelp Research and Monitoring Workgroup), the HSIL would like you to bring your HSIAT engagement as well as individual organization perspective to helping shape the Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy. Additionally, HSIL staff will be working to engage Marine Resource Committees and Local Integrating Organizations in addition to these topical work groups.
- ***HSIL Subrecipient Summit*** – HSIL will host a subrecipient summit to engage HSIL subrecipients (grantees), HSIAT members, and the broader recovery community to learn about the status of HSIL-funded work, lessons learned, and opportunities to engage further. HSIL would like all HSIAT members to prioritize attending the (virtual) summit when scheduled (February-March 2024)
- ***Agriculture Community Engagement through a Pod*** – The Stormwater SIL has developed a model of topical working groups called “pods” to support their SIAT in providing information to consider for funding and other actions. HSIL staff, along with the Stormwater and Shellfish

- SILs, have been co-developing an Agriculture Pod focused around Implementation Strategy areas related to agriculture. The HSIAT provided HSIL with feedback on agricultural community engagement in August 2024. This feedback was incorporated into the scoping and development of an Agricultural Community Pod. An invitation will be sent to select HSIAT members to participate in the first meeting on Dec 2nd. This working group is anticipated to be ongoing, and any interested HSIAT member may participate. HSIL would like to engage HSIAT members in this pod and bring back discussion topics for full HSIAT input and consideration for advancing the Habitat Implementation Strategies.
- *Increasing Engagement with Local Integrating Organizations – LIOs* work to align priorities and goals with regional scale recovery. There are [10 LIOs](#) throughout Puget Sound, each with an Ecosystem Recovery Plan that outlines specific strategies and actions that guide local ecosystem recovery. LIOs have members and participants from local governments, tribes, NGOs, state agencies, local business, industry, and other community groups. Some LIOs are also Salmon Recovery Lead Entity organizations. LIO meetings vary in frequency from 1 per month to 1 per quarter and most are virtual or hybrid. HSIL staff serve as liaisons for SILs to 4 of the 10 LIOs. Several HSIAT members are currently leaders or participants of LIOs. HSIL would like to increase the learning and dialogue across recovery scales. HSIL would like to increase HSIAT member participation in and learning from LIOs by having all HSIAT members attend the meetings of one LIO and have HSIAT members bring back opportunities and information to the HSIAT meetings to advance the Habitat Implementation Strategies in collaboration with partners at watershed scales. Following an initial discussion with the HSIAT, HSIL will initiate conversations with LIO coordinators. HSIL will support the HSIAT members in connecting with LIO coordinators and providing preparation or other support as needed. HSIL is also interested in increasing HSIAT attendance at Local Forums hosted by the Ecosystem Coordination Board and the Leadership Council when topics brought forward by LIOs are focused on Habitat. This is a further opportunity to advance priorities and actions at the local level. Local forums are at board meetings held in person and often include site tours. However, they can also be watched via TV-W (non-interactive).
 - *Continued strategic planning and actions to advance habitat resiliency in the face of sea level rise and other coastal hazards* – HSIL anticipates engaging the HSIAT through regular meetings on the draft and final synthesis from the HSIL Forum and getting HSIAT input on opportunities for HSIL's niche to bring forward convenings to develop solutions to key barriers. Additional opportunities for engagement beyond existing HSIAT meetings may arise.
 - *Funding Guidance* – HSIL anticipates that HSIAT input will be needed to guide HSIL reinvestments of potential return funds from currently contracted and selected subawards made based on the RFPs implementing the HSIAT recommended Investment Priorities. HSIL will solicit input during regular HSIAT meetings.

Proposed Schedule

| Date | Meeting + Topic | All HSIAT or subset |
|---|---|--|
| January 15 | HSIAT Meeting Virtual– Marine Veg Implementation Strategy Deep Dive | All |
| January, February, March | Proposed Action Agenda Topic workshops, dates TBD. | HSIAT members attend at least one Topic workshop |
| January -May | Marine Veg IS engagement | HSIAT members who participate in existing work groups engage |
| February 19 | HSIAT Meeting – tentative cancellation depending on status of Action Agenda workshops | |
| February or March | HSIL Subrecipient Summit (4 hrs) | All |
| March 19 | HSIAT Meeting Virtual | All |
| April 16 | HSIAT Meeting Virtual | All |
| May – 3 rd Wed | HSIAT Meeting Virtual | All |
| June – 2 nd or 3 rd Wed | HSIAT Meeting - Propose In Person | All |
| July – 3 rd Wed | HSIAT Meeting Virtual | All |
| August – 3 rd Wed | HSIAT Meeting Virtual | All |
| September - 3 rd Wed | HSIAT Meeting – Propose In Person | All |
| October – 3 rd Wed | HSIAT Meeting Virtual | All |
| November – 3 rd Wed | HSIAT Meeting Virtual | All |