

Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit Update

Tacoma City Council

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

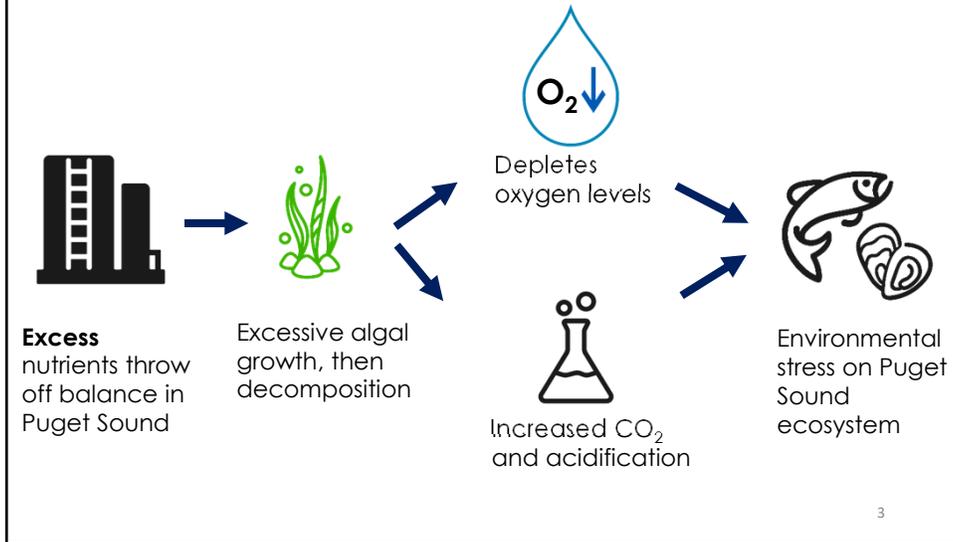
Today's Agenda

- Why we are here
- Where we are going
- General permit overview
- Individual permits
- Addressing regional growth
- Funding
- Q&A



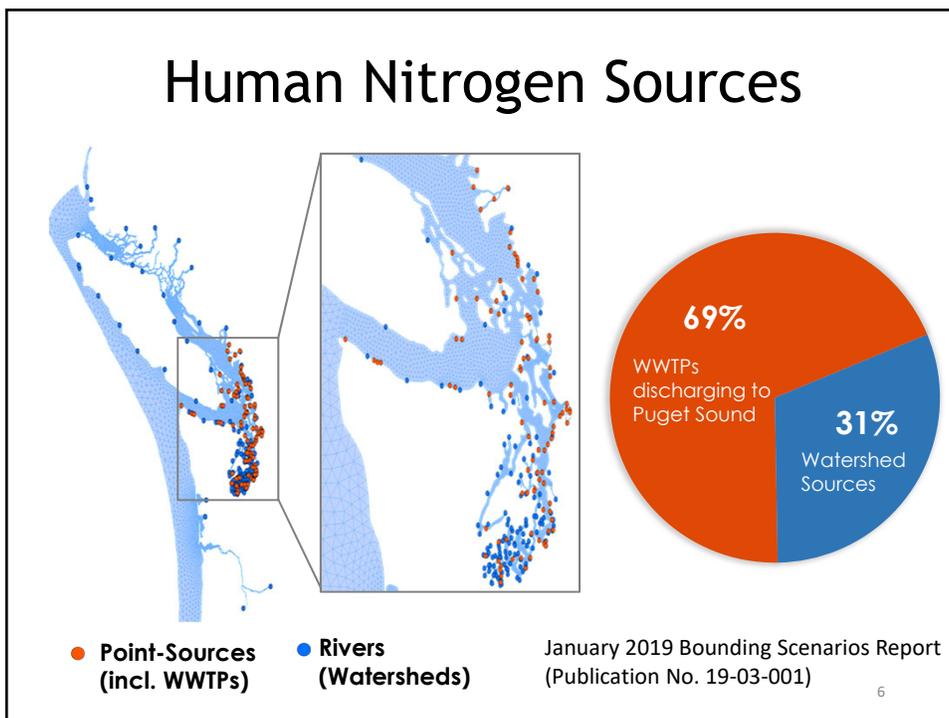
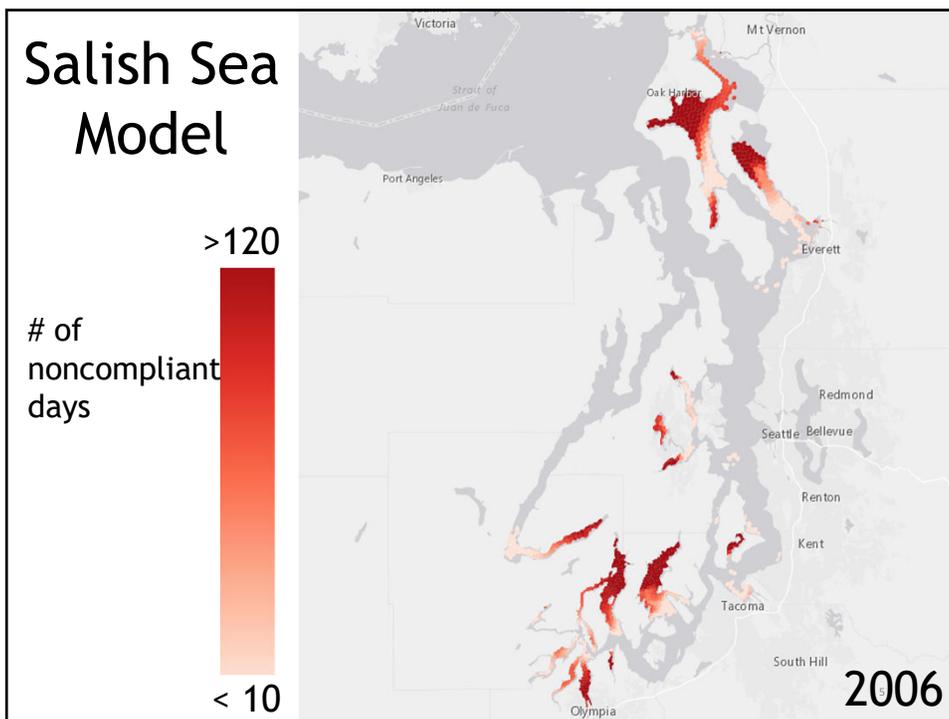
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Nutrient Imbalance Impacts Puget Sound



Visible Indicators





Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Plan



- Strategize actions necessary to achieve dissolved oxygen criteria
- Establish nutrient load targets for both marine point sources and watershed sources
- Monitor for effectiveness and adaptively manage the plan



Approach to Marine Point Sources

- Nutrients General Permit & Advisory Committee
- Future load reduction targets and nutrient effluent limits
- Exploring water quality trading



8

Benefits of General Permit

Timely initiation of nutrient controls Sound-wide.

Robust public involvement process

Increased flexibility for permittees

Shared foundation to work together to achieve nutrient reduction



9

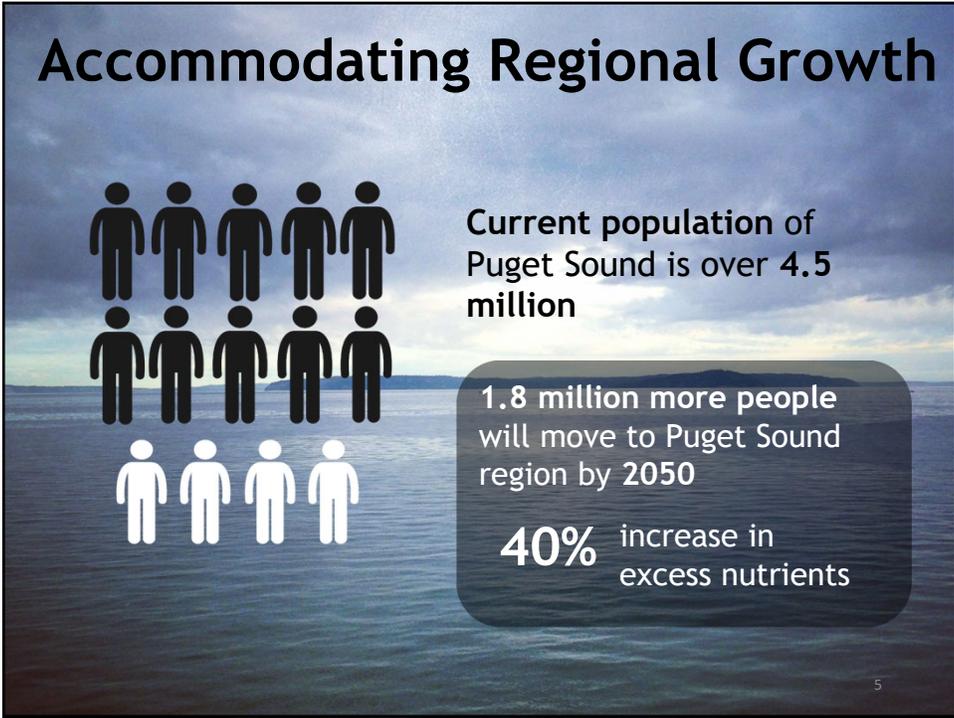
How will a General Permit Work?

- Applies to wastewater treatment plants discharging to Puget Sound
- Only focus on controlling nutrients
- In conjunction with individual permits
- Future versions will reflect modeling results



10

Accommodating Regional Growth



The infographic features a background image of a Puget Sound coastline. On the left, there are 14 human icons: 10 black icons arranged in two rows of five, and 4 white icons in a single row below them. To the right of the icons, text states: 'Current population of Puget Sound is over 4.5 million'. Below this, a dark rounded rectangle contains the text: '1.8 million more people will move to Puget Sound region by 2050' and '40% increase in excess nutrients'. A small number '5' is visible in the bottom right corner of the infographic.

Current population of Puget Sound is over 4.5 million

1.8 million more people will move to Puget Sound region by 2050

40% increase in excess nutrients

1st Permit Term

- Prevent water quality problem from getting worse
- Accommodate approved capacity commitments and encourage smart growth
- Work towards future nutrient reductions



A vertical photograph showing a view of a Puget Sound coastline with a town and trees in the background under a clear blue sky.

12



Future Permit Goals

- Continued reduction in nutrients
- Compliance schedules with achievable milestones
- Achievement of WQBELs

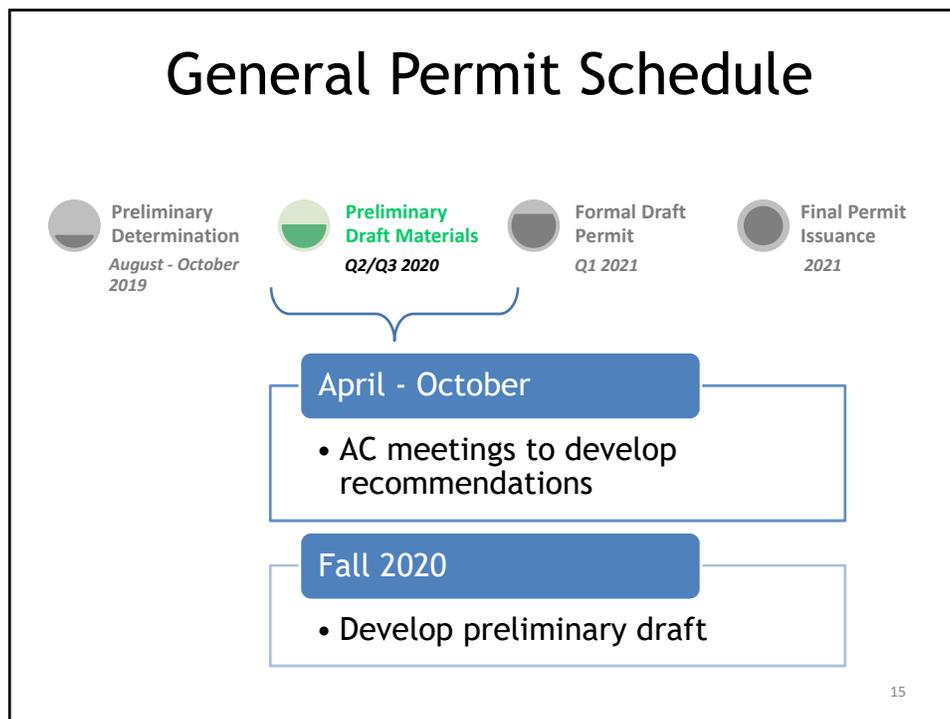
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Purpose of Advisory Committee

To advise us in drafting general permit requirements for WWTP discharging directly to the greater Puget Sound area that will lead towards reducing nutrient loads



14



Individual NPDES Permits

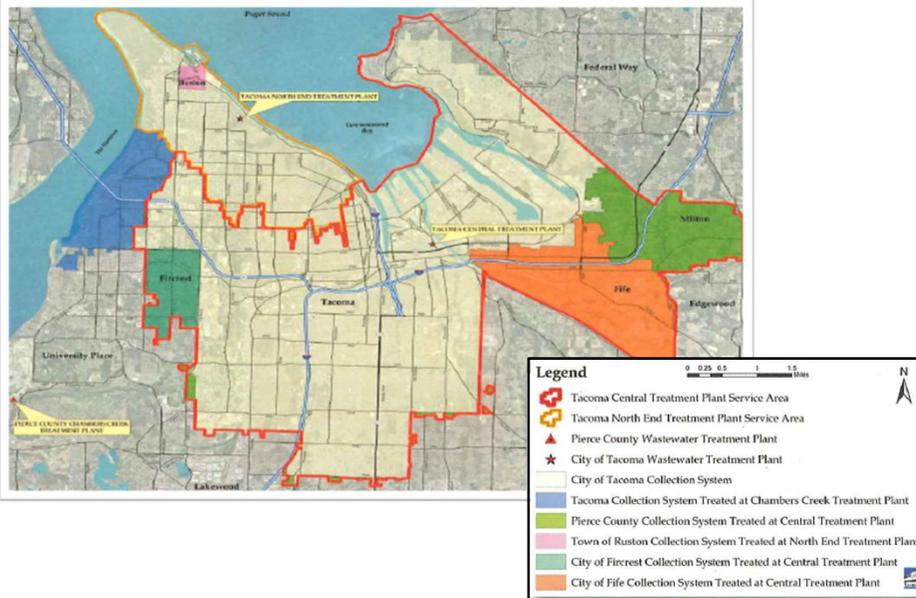
Ecology needs to continue to address other Clean Water Act requirements

General Permit will supersede nutrient controls in reissued individual permits



16

Tacoma's Individual Permits



Costs and Financial Assistance



Estimated funding needs



Federal and State grant and loan programs



Other funding opportunities

[Link to August 7 Forum presentation: Funding for Nutrient Reduction](#)

How to stay informed...

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Nutrients General Permit
Listserv:

<http://listserv.ecology.wa.gov/scripts/wa-ECOLOGY.exe?A0=NUTRIENTS-PERMIT>

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