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### **Puget Sound Salmon: Swimming upstream**

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Cooperation, hard work and a good deal of money have kept the state of Puget Sound salmon from becoming a regional tragedy. Reviving the fish runs will require more of the same, plus broad public involvement and time -- perhaps 50 years.

Today, regional leaders are celebrating completion of a locally developed strategy for recovery of salmon in the entire Puget Sound. It's a uniquely grass-roots plan for meeting the mandates of the federal Endangered Species Act, right in the middle of one of the country's most dynamic urban centers.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now will review the plans. Federal officials have expressed pleasure with the planning for recovery of the threatened Puget Sound wild chinook. But the plan remains a work in progress.

The people of the region are key in tackling the various big and small problems along the Sound and neighboring inland waters. "If we get people involved, they will clean up Hood Canal," says Billy Frank, one of the recovery leaders, pointing to one key area.

Recovery will test the sincerity of professions that everyone here cares about fish, Puget Sound and the Northwest's cultural ties to salmon. But Frank, chairman of Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, former EPA Administrator Bill Ruckelshaus and others are optimistic about the region's ability to accommodate population growth while protecting the environment. Ruckelshaus observes, "One of the things that this country has got to do is to show by example that we are capable of (handling) these kinds of chronic problems."

Recovery will require new ways of gardening, greater water conservation and better land-use decisions. Spending for land acquisitions, restoration of tidal estuaries and other salmon-protection measures is expected to double to \$120 million a year.

Like the fish, we face an upstream swim. But if they can do it, so can Seattle and its neighbors.

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