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COMPENDIUM OF CANADA'S ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Environment Canada – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Joint Statement of Cooperation on the Georgia Basin and Puget Sound Ecosystem

SUBJECT CATEGORY:

Biodiversity & Ecosystems

TYPE OF AGREEMENT / INSTRUMENT:

Canada - US

FORM:

Cooperative Arrangement

STATUS:

Signed January 19, 2000

LEAD & PARTNER DEPARTMENTS:

Lead: Environment Canada

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Web Links:

- [Environment Canada's Transboundary Partnerships website](#)
- [US EPA Puget Sound Partnership website](#)
- [Health of the Salish Sea Ecosystem Report/Salish Sea Transboundary Ecosystem Indicators.](#)
- [2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#)
- [Coast Salish Gathering Initiative](#)

Contacts:

[EC Inquiry Centre](#)

COMPENDIUM EDITION:

January 2015

REFERENCE #:

C-BD-3/EN

OBJECTIVE

In 2000, the Joint Statement of Cooperation (SoC) on the Salish Sea (Georgia Basin and Puget Sound Ecosystem) was signed by the Minister of Environment in Canada and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States. The SoC is a uniquely written bilateral agreement that outlines common goals and objectives and provides a context for federal agency collaboration on transboundary ecosystem management of the Salish Sea.

KEY ELEMENTS


The Salish Sea ecosystem, which includes the Georgia Strait, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound in Washington State, is of significant importance in North America as one of the richest in biodiversity. However, this ecosystem is also one where common airsheds, watersheds, marine estuaries, and common flyways for migratory birds face serious and mounting pressures from rapid population and urban growth, intense agriculture and resource development. In acknowledging the uniqueness of the Salish Sea ecosystem, the SoC serves to:

- publicly confirm the commitment and leadership of the Canadian and American governments;
- recognize the special interests of First Nations and Tribes;
- establish a formal Canada-US mechanism at the regional level to act on sustainability challenges and promote multi-jurisdictional collaboration on transboundary issues.

It also commits Environment Canada and the US Environmental Protection Agency to develop bi-annual action plans and to routinely report to the public on progress.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Canada-US collaboration in addressing the transboundary environmental challenges confronting the ecosystem health in the Salish Sea/Georgia Basin region with a focus on knowledge and information sharing as well as transboundary demonstration



projects that contribute to improved air quality, water quality, habitat and species health. Action plans are generated, updated, and monitored to identify policy activities for focus areas.

CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT

- Co-signatory (Environment Canada) with U.S. (EPA Region 10)
- Co-chair with USEPA planning sessions for SOC Action Plan development
- Co-lead demonstration projects with USEPA
- Support bi-annual Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference with USEPA

RESULTS / PROGRESS

Activities

- Convene special sessions on transboundary topics of interest.
- Provide advisory support to the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conferences.

- Pursue key joint initiatives such as the Transboundary Ecosystem Indicators Report and other transboundary demonstration projects as resources allow.
- Jointly agree to and draft bi-annual actions plans and reports on progress and communicate these efforts to the public and key stakeholder groups.

Reports

EC and the EPA jointly agree to and draft bi-annual actions plans and reports on progress and communicate these efforts to the public and key stakeholder groups.

- [US EPA Puget Sound Partnership](#) website

Results

- [Health of the Salish Sea Ecosystem Report/Salish Sea Transboundary Ecosystem Indicators.](#)
- [2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#)