

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM: PERIODIC REVIEW UPDATE

The Town of Coupeville is undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington state Shoreline Management Act. The Town adopted its current SMP in 2009. The focus of this periodic review is to maintain consistency with changes to state law, that have been made since the last adoption. The review will also address consistency with the Town's comprehensive plan, current development regulations, and overall usability of the SMP.

We invite you to provide input and to engage with Town staff and other stakeholders throughout the review process. The Town plans to hold virtual public meetings in the spring and summer of 2021, with the goal to adopt the updated SMP by the fall of 2021.

SHORELINE JURISDICTION

As defined by the SMA, shorelines include certain waters of the state plus their associated "shorelands." At a minimum, the water bodies designated as shorelines of the state are marine waters, streams whose mean annual flow is 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater, and lakes whose area is greater than 20 acres. Shoreline jurisdiction includes these waters together with the lands underlying them and all lands extending 200 feet in all directions, as measured on a horizontal plane from the ordinary high-water mark, as well as all associated wetlands.

Overview:

The Town of Coupeville completed a comprehensive update of its Shoreline Master Program in 2009. Washington state law requires jurisdictions to review and update their SMPs every eight years in accordance with the [Shoreline Management Act](#) (SMA) and its current guidelines and legislative rules to attain state approval. The Town received a grant from the [Washington Department of Ecology](#) to support this periodic review. The grant timeline calls for completing this periodic update by June 30, 2021. The Town intends to complete the bulk of the review by June, and finalize its adoption by the end of 2021.

SMP's are required to implement the goals and policies of the SMA. The primary purpose of the SMA is to provide for the management and protection of the state's shoreline resources by planning for reasonable and appropriate uses.

The Act has three broad policies:

1. Encourage water-dependent uses: "Uses shall be preferred which are consistent with control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment, or are unique to or dependent upon use of the state's shorelines..."
2. Protect shoreline natural resources, including "...the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and other aquatic life..."
3. Promote public access: "The public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible consistent with the overall best interest of the state and the people generally."

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