

## ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS



based on a photo from

Puget Sound National Estuary Program • 360.407.7302 • [www.wa.gov/puget\\_sound](http://www.wa.gov/puget_sound) • March 2001

### PUGET SOUND

*Puget Sound was one of the first estuaries to join the National Estuary Program. It is home to Washington's most urbanized area and hundreds of thousands of visitors come to enjoy the magnificent waters, coast, and islands that make up the sound. Just over 2,350 miles of shoreline, a spectacular mosaic of beaches, bluffs, deltas, mudflats and wetlands surround the sound. Much of the promise and potential of this region is based on natural resources and the industries, tourism and recreation these resources support.*

#### FACTS ABOUT THE ESTUARY

- Nearly 3.9 million people live in Puget Sound with 2 million more projected by 2020.
- Puget Sounders own more than 165,000 powerboats, 21,500 sailboats, 45,000 canoes and kayaks, and numerous sailboards and other personal watercraft.
- The shellfish industry produced nearly 50 million pounds of bivalve shellfish with a wholesale value of nearly \$50 million in 1998.
- Puget Sound contains 1.8 million acres of submerged marine beds and tidelands.
- Puget Sound is home to over 220 species of fish, 26 different kinds of marine mammals, 100 species of sea birds, and thousands of species of marine invertebrates.

## HEALTH OF THE ESTUARY

- Numerous marine species appear to be in trouble, including Pacific herring, rockfish, coho salmon, scoters, Western grebes, great blue herons and orca whales.
- More than one-half of the river stations monitored for fecal coliform bacteria violate state standards.
- More than 3,000 acres of Puget Sound sediments are contaminated.
- More than one-third of Puget Sound's shoreline has been modified by human activity.
- Water quality restoration efforts have resulted in a lifting of harvest restrictions at several commercial shellfish growing areas in the past two years.
- Control measures of *Spartina*—an invasive plant—have substantially decreased the size of infestations in seven of the twelve sound counties.
- Decreasing trends in concentrations of PCBs measured in mussels were observed at a number of Puget Sound monitoring stations.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ESTUARY PROGRAM

- All 12 Puget Sound counties and 110 cities have measures in place to protect wetlands and stream habitat.
- Seventeen of 89 contaminated marine sediment sites have been cleaned up.
- Ninety-seven of 122 cities and counties in Puget Sound have adopted basic stormwater programs.
- Acquired and provided permanent protection for 10,758 acres of prime estuarine habitat since 1991.
- Developed water cleanup plans for 52 watersheds.
- Prevented 420,000 gallons of raw sewage from entering Puget Sound with construction of 19 pump-out stations and 12 other sewage facilities for boats.
- Provided more than \$5 million for over 280 Public Involvement and Education projects since 1987 serving more than 2 million people.
- The Ambient Monitoring Program, in its tenth year, continues to provide information on trends in the health of the sound.

### *Salmon Falling on Cedar*

4 chinook salmon steaks,  
with skin  
1 tbl salmon rub  
(recipe follows)  
2 tsp olive oil  
2 tsp lemon juice  
2 tbl chopped italian  
parsley  
2 tbl sorrel, chopped  
1 clove garlic, minced

Salmon Rub  
1 tsp basil  
2 tsp salt  
1 tsp white pepper  
2 tsp brown sugar  
pinch of cayenne  
1 tsp fresh lemon  
or orange peel, grated  
Combine ingredients  
until well blended

Coat the salmon steaks with the dry rub.  
Refrigerate the steaks uncovered, for  
2 to 10 hours.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.  
Place the steaks in the center of a cedar  
plank. Combine the olive oil, lemon juice,  
parsley, sorrel and garlic.  
Drizzle lightly over the salmon.  
Bake 10 minutes, turn salmon over,  
and bake another 10 minutes.

Note: Cedar planks are available  
from quality kitchen supply stores.