

### **General Policy Goals of the Act and Guidelines for Shorelines of the State**

WAC 173-26-176 "**Shorelines**" means all of the water areas of the state, including reservoirs, and their associated shorelands, together with the lands underlying them; except (i) shorelines of statewide significance; (ii) shorelines on segments of streams upstream of a point where the mean annual flow is twenty cubic feet per second or less and the wetlands associated with such upstream segments; and (iii) shorelines on lakes less than twenty acres in size and wetlands associated with such small lakes.

- a) The utilization of shorelines for economically productive uses that are particularly dependent of shoreline location or use. - RCW 90.58.020, RCW 90.58.100
- b) The utilization of shorelines and the waters they encompass for public access and recreation. - RCW 90.58.020, RCW 90.58.100
- c) Protection and restoration of the ecological functions of shoreline natural resources. - RCW 90.58.020, RCW 90.58.100
- d) Protection of the public right of navigation and corollary uses of waters of the state. - RCW 90.58.020
- e) The protection and restoration of buildings and sites having historic, cultural and educational value. - RCW 90.58.100
- f) Planning for public facilities and utilities correlated with other shorelines uses. - RCW 90.58.100
- g) Prevention and minimization of flood damages. - RCW 90.58.100
- h) Recognizing and protecting private property rights. - RCW 90.58.020
- i) Preferential accommodation of single family uses. - RCW 90.58.020, RCW 90.58.100
- j) Coordination of shoreline management with other relevant local, state and federal programs. - RCW 90.58.020, RCW 90.58.100

### **Special Policy Goals of the Act and Guidelines for Shorelines of State-Wide Significance**

WAC 173-26-181 "**Shorelines of Statewide Significance**" for the marine shorelines in Kitsap County are: Hood Canal – from Foulweather Bluff to the southwestern corner of the boundary of Kitsap County, near Chinum Point (includes tidelands and associated wetlands) AND Puget Sound – line waterward from the line of extreme low tide. KC 22.12.010 (80).

In accordance with RCW [90.58.020](#), the "department, in adopting guidelines for shorelines of statewide significance, and local government, in developing master programs for shorelines of statewide significance, shall give preference to uses in the following order of preference which:

- (1) Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest;
- (2) Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
- (3) Result in long term over short term benefit;
- (4) Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
- (5) Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines;
- (6) Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline;
- (7) Provide for any other element as defined in RCW [90.58.100](#) deemed appropriate or necessary."

## **Excerpts from WAC 173-26-186 on Governing Principles**

### **Principle of No Net Loss and Restoration**

*(b) Local master programs shall include policies and regulations designed to achieve no net loss of those ecological functions.*

*(i) Local master programs shall include regulations and mitigation standards ensuring that each permitted development will not cause a net loss of ecological functions of the shoreline; local government shall design and implement such regulations and mitigation standards in a manner consistent with all relevant constitutional and other legal limitations on the regulation of private property.*

*(ii) Local master programs shall include regulations ensuring that exempt development in the aggregate will not cause a net loss of ecological functions of the shoreline.*

*(c) For counties and cities containing any shorelines with impaired ecological functions, master programs shall include goals and policies that provide for restoration of such impaired ecological functions. These master program provisions shall identify existing policies and programs that contribute to planned restoration goals and identify any additional policies and programs that local government will implement to achieve its goals. These master program elements regarding restoration should make real and meaningful use of established or funded nonregulatory policies and programs that contribute to restoration of ecological functions, and should appropriately consider the direct or indirect effects of other regulatory or nonregulatory programs under other local, state, and federal laws, as well as any restoration effects that may flow indirectly from shoreline development regulations and mitigation standards.*

### **Principle of Cumulative Impacts**

*(d) Local master programs shall evaluate and consider cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable future development on shoreline ecological functions and other shoreline functions fostered by the policy goals of the act. To ensure no net loss of ecological functions and protection of other shoreline functions and/or uses, master programs shall contain policies, programs, and regulations that address adverse cumulative impacts and fairly allocate the burden of addressing cumulative impacts among development opportunities. Evaluation of such cumulative impacts should consider:*

*(i) Current circumstances affecting the shorelines and relevant natural processes;*

*(ii) Reasonably foreseeable future development and use of the shoreline; and*

*(iii) Beneficial effects of any established regulatory programs under other local, state, and federal laws.*

*It is recognized that methods of determining reasonably foreseeable future development may vary according to local circumstances, including demographic and economic characteristics and the nature and extent of local shorelines.*

### **Purpose of Guidelines and Policies**

*(4) The planning policies of master programs (as distinguished from the development regulations of master programs) may be achieved by a number of means, only one of which is the regulation of development. Other means, as authorized by RCW [90.58.240](#), include, but are not limited to: The acquisition of lands and easements within shorelines of the state by purchase, lease, or gift, either alone or in concert with other local governments; and accepting grants, contributions, and appropriations from any public or private agency or individual. Additional other means may include, but are not limited to, public facility and park planning, watershed planning, voluntary salmon recovery projects and incentive programs.*

*(e) The guidelines are not intended to limit the use of regulatory incentives, voluntary modification of development proposals, and voluntary mitigation measures that are designed to restore as well as protect shoreline ecological functions.*