

**Seattle's Shorelines Today and Tomorrow:  
Updating Seattle's Shoreline Master Program  
Citizens Advisory Committee Visioning Exercise  
Thursday, June 26, 2008**

## Background

At its June 2008 meeting, the Seattle Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Citizens Advisory Committee (Committee) participated in an interactive visioning exercise. Each Committee member was provided three cards on which to write answers to the following question: *“Imagine that it is 25 years into the future and we have been successful in managing Seattle’s shorelines. How will you know? What will you see (or not see)? What will be happening (or not happening)? What will be the same (or different)?”*

Committee members worked together to group their responses to this question into related categories, and to create names for the categories. They also held a facilitated discussion comparing their results to the results of the spring 2008 Seattle Shoreline Community Visioning Workshops (at which community members were asked the above question, among others) and a city-wide shoreline vision survey (see SMP Update website for a Vision Report summarizing the results of the workshops and survey). The Committee also asked the SMP Project Team to create a vision statement, summarizing the results of the Committee’s visioning exercise.

Presented below are:

1. The vision statement
2. Key points made during the Committee’s discussion (these do not necessarily represent the consensus position of the Committee)
3. The measures of success provided by individual Committee members during the exercise, grouped and categorized by the Committee.

## Vision Statement

*The SMP Update Citizens Advisory Committee envisions a future for Seattle’s shorelines in which the Shoreline Management Act’s three major co-equal policy goals (protecting preferred uses, providing environmental protection, and promoting public access) are truly balanced. This means that the opportunity for citizens to experience and interact with the shoreline in a wide variety of ways will not be limited by a lack of public access points or views. It means that the shoreline’s ability to sustain diverse plants and animals will be both protected and restored. It means that existing historic, diverse and active uses of Seattle’s shorelines will be maintained. And it means ensuring that Seattle remains a place where marine businesses thrive and make an important contribution to both the economy and our unique character.*

## Key Points

- The Committee’s visioning responses and categories reflect the three goals of the Shoreline Management Act.

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- However, the exercise also identified areas where differences are likely to arise among Committee members.
- It looks like there is greater emphasis on this Committee on water-oriented businesses than among the general public. Many on the Committee see as a basic value the need to make these industries thrive.
- There is also greater concern on the Committee regarding achieving balance among the three goals, and interest in developing a common vision.
- There is recognition that this will be hard to achieve and require diligence. It is a challenge to this group.
- We clearly “want it all”—recreational access, thriving marine businesses, healthy habitat.
- We shouldn't feel that we have to “trade-off” one goal for another. We can seek sustainability, where all three are addressed.
- It is clear that everyone on this Committee both loves the water and has extensive expertise. For these reasons, we should lend more credibility to this group than the general public.
- Water quality transcends other issues; stormwater destroys fish health.
- It would be interesting and educational to do an exercise where we each have a fixed amount of money to spend on various shoreline priorities. How would we “vote” with those dollars?
- It would be helpful to have the SMP Project Team transcribe and categorize the Committee's ideas, including taking a stab at creating a balanced vision statement to guide the Committee's deliberations.
- The Committee would like DPD to clarify several questions relating to the city-wide public opinion survey:
  - Time of day interviews were conducted,
  - Accommodation of non-English speakers, and
  - Statistical geographic reach of interviews.

## Measures of Success

### **Economic Activity**

- Protect water-dependent uses
- #1: No net loss of direct marine industrial jobs (22,000 in 2008); #2: Enhanced environment; #3: The city shoreline remains a working waterfront
- Industrial area – strong Ship Canal
- Water dependent business can maintain their assets and expand for growth
- Historic uses are maintained
- Lake Union/Portage Bay – active, diverse, retain historic uses
- Thriving commercial sea port and fishing, industry, all green
- Duwamish/Salmon Bay marine industry strong

### **Public Access**

- Cultural activities are safe and enjoyed
- Increase public access while respecting existing business

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- Public access expanded
- Equity of access and improvements in different sub-areas
- Public beaches and moorage facilities
- Diverse range of recreational public activities
- Development of public access where feasible
- Shoreline access available on all waterways
- Dock for boaters in Andrews Bay (Seward Park)
- Mixture of docks, private beaches

**Environmental Health**

- Prevent pollution
- Residential shorelines: more naturalized shoreline edge through improved dock design and replacement of bulkheads and lawn with natural shoreline stabilization and vegetation
- Stormwater runoff is clean and mimics predevelopment hydrologic flows
- Protect Foster Island and Arboretum
- Lake Washington shallow water habitat restored
- Increase habitat functionality
- Water quality and habitat are maintained or improved
- Salmon are not threatened
- Salmon have recovered and are no longer on the endangered species list
- You can eat as much local fish as you want without getting sick
- Natural plantings chemical-free in all nearshore areas
- Native vegetation along shoreline, bioengineered shore protection when appropriate
- Vibrant wetlands all around the city
- Marine shorelines and beaches are healthy, not degraded
- Healthy fisheries
- Salmon can migrate safely
- No CSO (combined sewer overflows) in Seattle

**Balance: Access, Environment, Water-Oriented Uses, Sustainable Development**

- Downtown: "world class" harbor front with naturalized sections, historic docks, water-dependent businesses and amenities
- Ecologically responsible business in various areas
- Objective ecology measurement
- Reduces conflict of adjacent property use
- Seattle remains a "Mecca" because of its shoreline
- Shoreline population density increase is equally distributed and small
- Portage Bay - promote house boats and marinas
- Lake Union - promote house boats and commercial operations
- Water quality is good (no toxins, no flammable), whales
- Private property is sacrosanct
- Balance of habitat preservation and economic activity

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- Thriving habitat patches are interspersed with thriving marine businesses
- Lake Washington – emphasize single family residences, stabilized shorelines utilize parks and street ends
- Duwamish –historic floodplain is transformed with an integrated mix of water dependent uses, restored shorelines, public access elements, and support new development
- Sustainable tourism industry driving economic stability
- Recreation and commercial uses operate side by side