



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47824 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
Tel: 360-236-3330 • 711 Washington State Relay

October 4, 2024

**Re: Collaborative – Request for Proposals from the Shellfish Strategic Initiative Lead (SIL)
invested through EPA Puget Sound Geographic Program funds**

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners and Professionals:

We are writing today to provide information about a funding opportunity to increase harvestable shellfish bed acreage in Puget Sound. Approximately \$5.3M will be invested through [EPA Puget Sound Geographic Program funds](#) request for proposals (RFP) process.

This communication follows the guidelines of [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and the [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#). The Department administers these federal funds through a cooperative agreement with the EPA [RFP](#) that targets four investment priorities that were identified by an Advisory Team to the Shellfish SIL. The priorities solicited for aim to make progress towards the [Shellfish Beds Vital Sign target](#) which strives for a net increase in harvestable shellfish beds in Puget Sound. Investments will be prioritized in areas with potential acreage gain or in areas threatened to be downgraded on the [Threatened Growing Area List](#). Prioritization will also be given to investments that integrate Tribal Treaty Rights, climate change adaptation and resilience strategies, and environmental justice.

For additional information, please contact Audrey Coyne, Shellfish Strategic Initiative Lead, audrey.coyne@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3319, or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Phillips".

Todd Phillips, Director
Office of Environmental Health and Safety

cc: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson–Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH
Kristopher Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Elizabeth Perez, Chief, Office of Public Affairs and Equity, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, WA-DOH
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief, Office of Prevention, Safety & Health, WA-DOH
Lauren Jenks, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Public Health, WA-DOH
Audrey Coyne, Shellfish Strategic Initiative Lead, WA-DOH