



Hood Canal Bridge Assessment

06.12.2026

PRTPO Executive Board Meeting

Shaara Ainsley, Associate Director of Projects, Long Live the Kings



Restoring wild salmon and steelhead and supporting sustainable fishing in the Pacific Northwest





Hood Canal Bridge Assessment

What We'll Cover

Project Background & Goals

Current Phase

Community Study

Conceptual Design



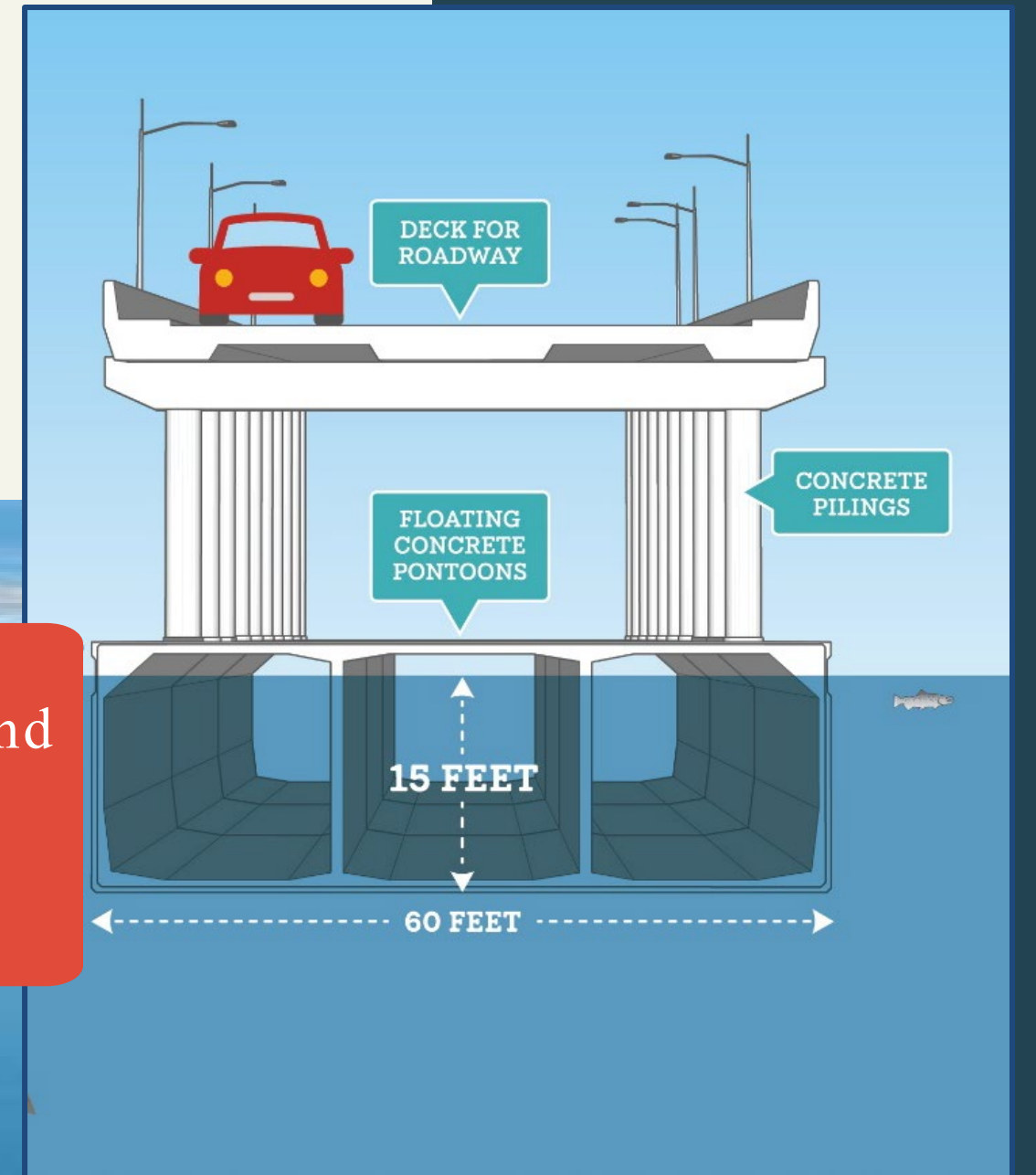


About the Bridge



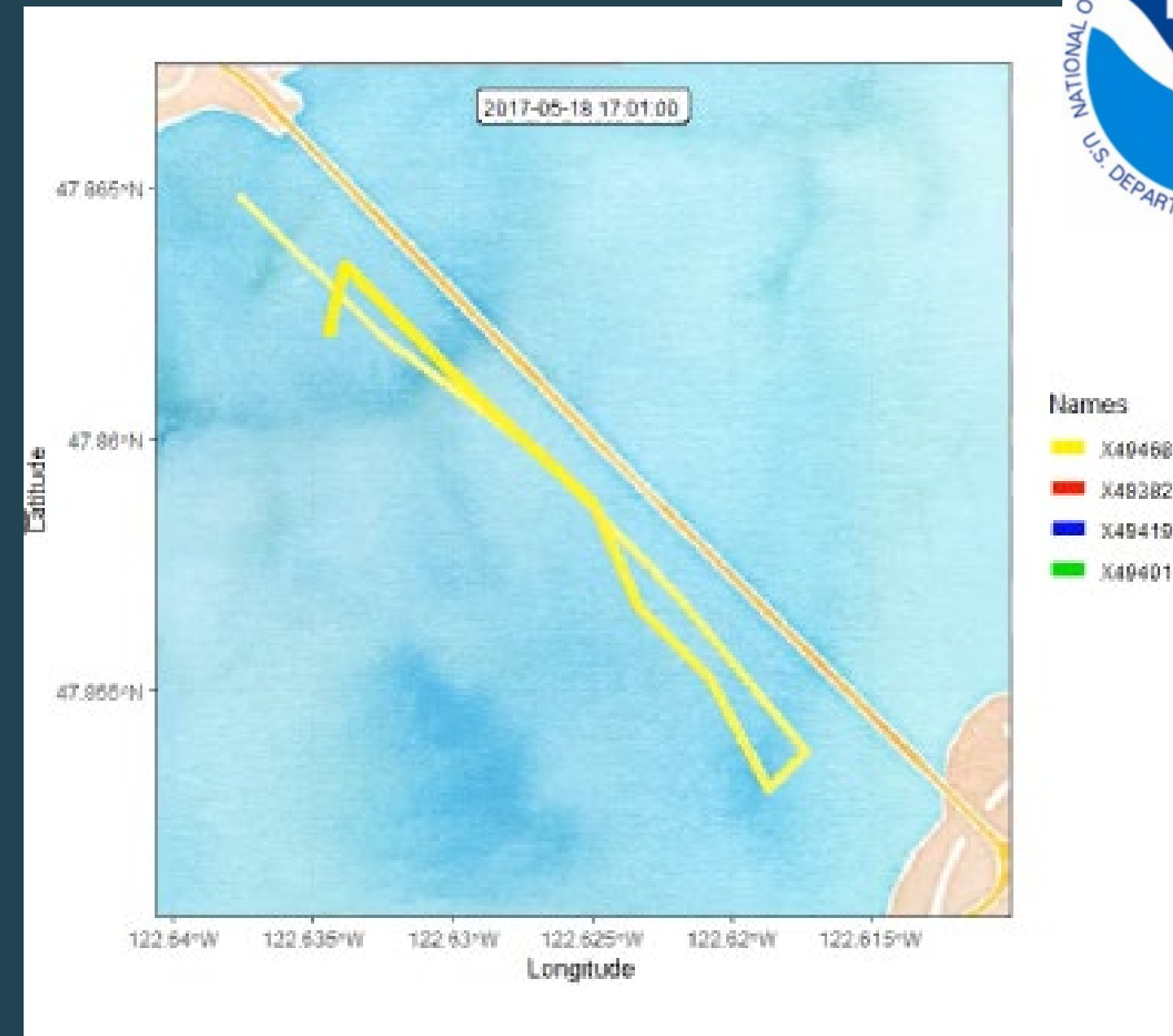
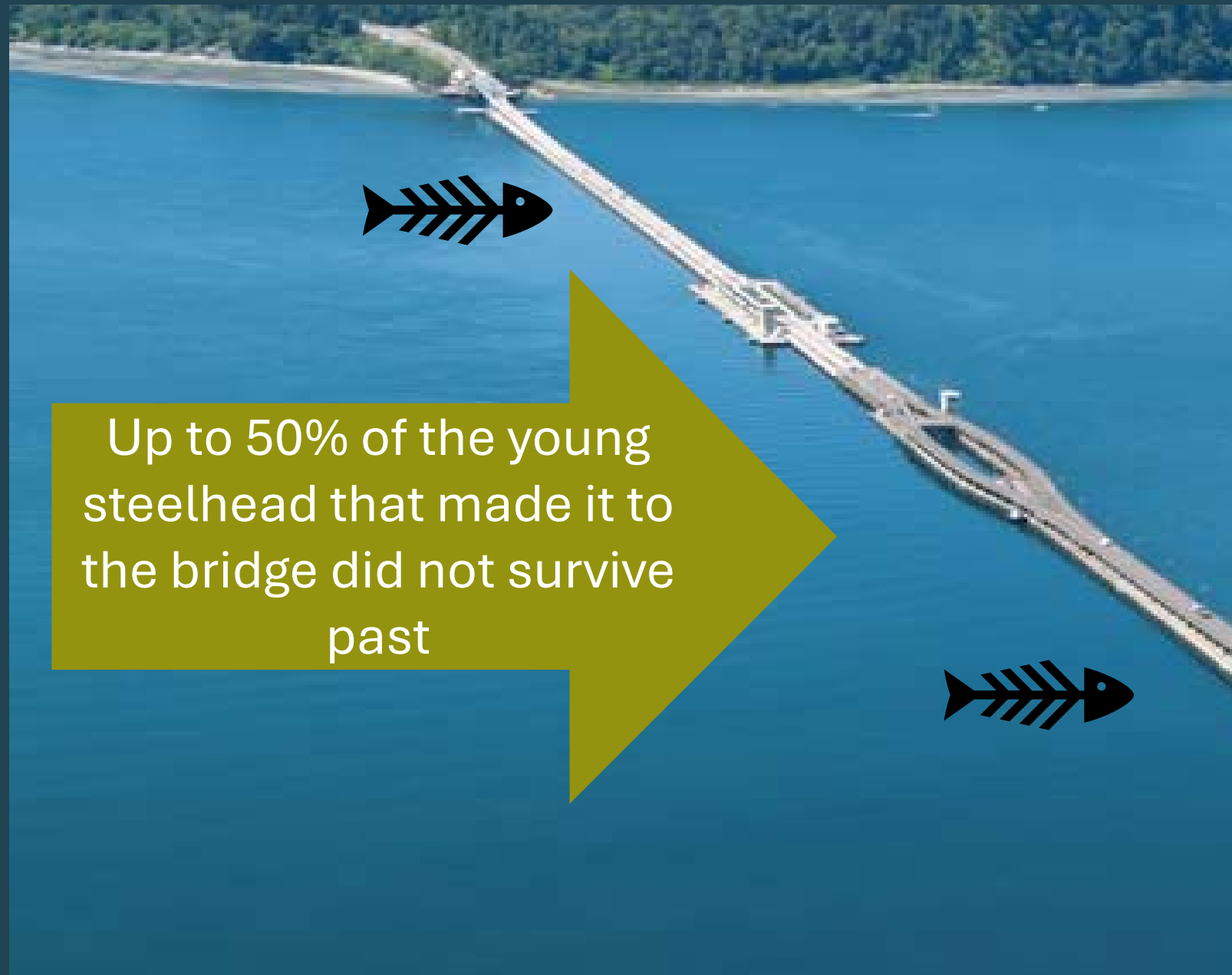
Pontoons span
83% width of
Hood Canal

Pontoons extend
15 feet
underwater





Deadly Problem





HCB Assessment Partners

Management Committee:

- **Tribes:** Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe and Point-no-Point Treaty Council
- **Counties:** Jefferson County, Kitsap County, Mason County
- **Local Government council:** Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- **State Agencies:** WDFW, WDOT, Ecology, PSP, DNR
- **Federal Agencies and Divisions:** US Navy, USFWS, EPA, USCG, NOAA, PNNL

Assessment Team:



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PORT GAMBLE S’KLALLAM TRIBE





Problem Identified

#1

Bridge is acting as a barrier the young steelhead and surface water

#2

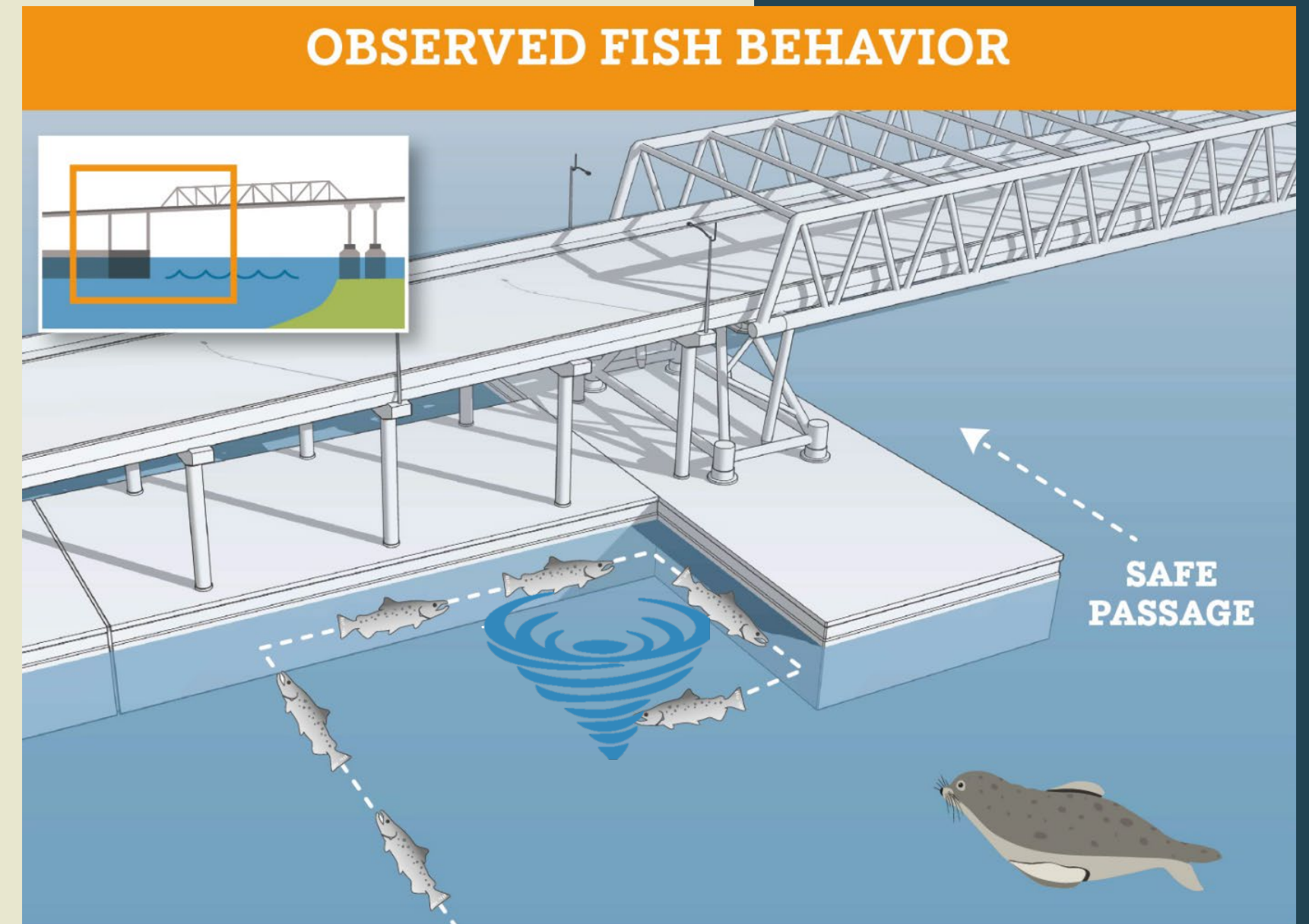
Confused fish wander around

#3

Abundant harbor seals catch the confused fish more easily

#4

Lights at night give seals an advantage





Considering Solutions





Current Project Goals



1st Goal

Significantly
increase steelhead
survival past the
current Bridge



2nd Goal

Identify whether a re-
designed bridge could
eliminate impacts to
steelhead and salmon,
and better serve people



HCB Conceptual Design

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe secured funding to develop a conceptual design for a possible new bridge:

1. Community Needs Study:

- HDR, Inc.
- Report completed in **February 2026**



2. Conceptual Re-design:

- COWI North America
- Preliminary Report due **June 2026**
- Final Report due **October 2026**





Steering Team





What do we mean by ‘Conceptual Design’?

What this project will do:

- Broadly identify needs of the community
- Understand feasibility of whether a new (or modified) bridge could address community and ecosystem needs
- Provide an initial sketch of timeframes and funding needs

What this project does not do:

- Take any official steps towards bridge design or construction



Community Outreach **Recap**

10
events

350+
interactions

- ✓ 3 farmers markets
- ✓ 3 ferry tabling events
- ✓ 2 in person listening sessions
- ✓ 1 Bridge Talk event
- ✓ 1 webinar

5

CBO*
Interviews

11 Partner
Listening
Sessions

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ Chimacum School District | ✓ Hood Canal Coordinating Council |
| ✓ Clallam Transit | ✓ Five State Agencies |
| ✓ Kitsap Economic Development Alliance | ✓ Two Federal Agencies |
| ✓ Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce | ✓ Three Counties |
| ✓ West Sound Cycling Club | |

4

area Tribes

Tribal
Participants:

- ✓ Jamestown S’Klallam
- ✓ Port Gamble S'Klallam
- ✓ Skokomish
- ✓ Suquamish



Hood Canal Bridge Assessment

HDR's Survey says...

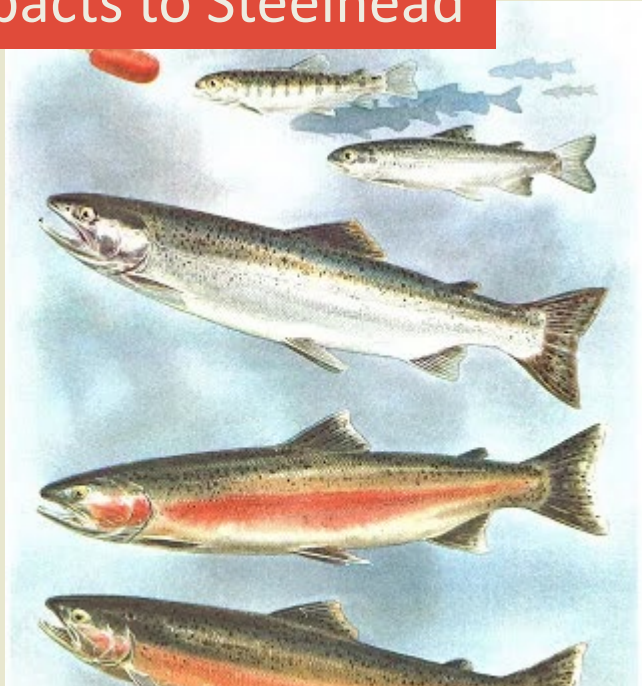
- 614 responses, mostly from the Olympic Peninsula
- 96% of respondents use the bridge
- Most (42%) use the bridge a few times for personal, for appointments, and for shopping (only 7% for commuting)
- Top two concerns: **delays due to opening** and unannounced openings
- 45% aware of fish impacts; 32% very concerned about those impacts — *Top concern*
- Important for a new bridge
 - High enough that it never has to open
 - Fewer openings
- Very important for new bridge
 - Keep bridge in same location and same size to reduce/avoid property impacts
 - Doesn't have to open for boat traffic
 - Reduced number of openings





What did we hear in the listening sessions?

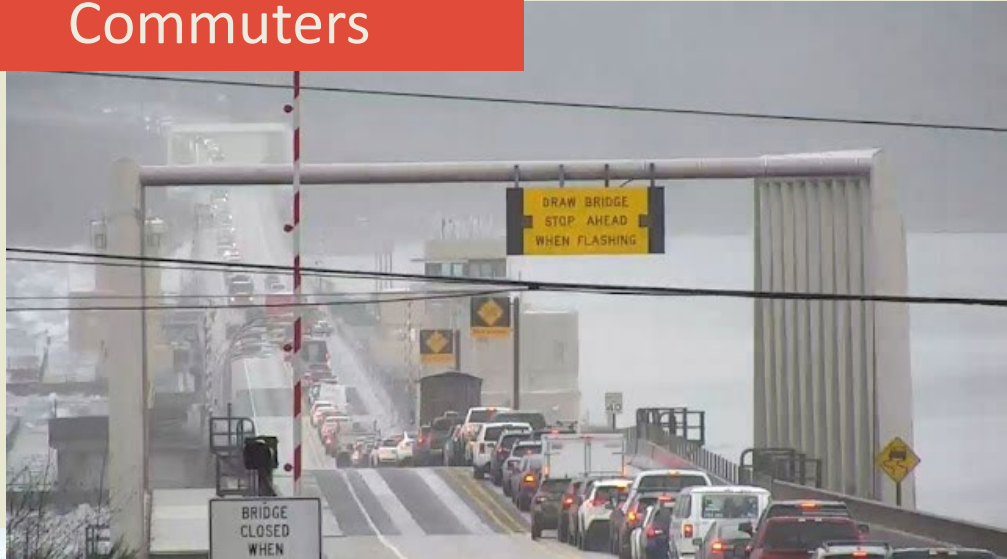
Impacts to Steelhead



Essential for tourism



Commuters



Bike/Walking Path



Bridge closure impacts



Impact to water flow



High Maintenance





Hood Canal Bridge Assessment

Conceptual Re-design **Engineers**

1915 Çanakkale Bridge, Türkiye

Together, we design a world record-breaking bridge for the 21st century



Mersey Gateway Bridge, UK

A catalyst for growth in North West England



COWI headquarters is in Denmark, and COWI in North America has offices in Seattle



Conceptual Design

- Visual representation of a potential replacement bridge
- Detailed description of design limitations
- Likely duration of time required for construction
- Estimated costs and benefits of the fully realized design





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Public-facing report due next Spring 2027



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Thank you!

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