

Puget Sound Stream Monitor – Number 1, June 2011

News about biological monitoring and reporting from around the region.

King County was recently awarded an EPA Grant entitled “*Enhancement and Standardization of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring and Analysis Tools for the Puget Sound Region.*” A key goal for the grant is to promote collaboration among the numerous entities that assess streams using macroinvertebrate data. We had our kickoff meeting on May 16th attended by 42 people from 24 local jurisdictions, state and federal agencies and tribes. This first edition of the newsletter is focused on summarizing the highlights of that initial meeting. Presentations from this kickoff meeting are here: <https://sites.google.com/site/integratedmonitoring/home/may-16-2011-kick-off-meeting>



How are groups in the region using benthic data?

Many local jurisdictions summarize benthic data using the benthic index of biotic integrity (B-IBI). B-IBI is being used regionally to do the following:

- Prioritize funding and performance indicator for agency programs (City of Redmond);
- Prioritize watersheds for protection, restoration, or development (Thurston Co.);
- Report stream condition to elected officials and stakeholders as part of annual reports or report cards (Pierce and Kitsap Co.);
- Evaluate effectiveness of restoration projects and critical areas ordinance regulations (NOAA, City of Seattle, King Co.); and
- Engage citizens in data collection and education efforts (City of Issaquah and Clallam Co.).

How are groups using the Puget Sound Stream Benthos (PSSB) Database?

- Data from >3300 sampling events from >1100 sites by >20 jurisdictions and tribes are currently available here: <http://www.pugetsoundstreambenthos.org/>
- Biological data are being accepted NOW for the 2012 assessment by WA Department of Ecology through August 31st, 2011. The PSSB database includes a download option formatted for easy upload into the Environmental Information Management (EIM)

system: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/eim/>. Don't wait until the last minute - submit your data early! Data submitted after August 31st will be considered for the 2014 assessment.

- If you are interested in storing your data in the PSSB database please contact Deb Lester (Deborah.Lester@kingcounty.gov).
- Stay tuned for a PSSB training in fall 2011!

How are benthic macroinvertebrate data being used at a regional level?

- The Stormwater Work Group has recommended probabilistic monitoring of status and trends of Puget Sound streams using B-IBI as an indicator of regional stream condition. This sampling is slated to start in 2013 at 50 sites within the Urban Growth Areas (UGA) and 50 sites outside the UGAs.
- The Puget Sound Partnership has proposed B-IBI as a dashboard indicator for regional target setting. More info on PSP targets can be found here: http://www.mypugetsound.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=groups&task=viewgroup&groupid=57&Itemid=222

Summer Sampling 2011

We will be sampling approximately 50 sites to compare methods used to collect benthic invertebrates. Some local jurisdictions and tribes sample an area of 3 ft² while WA Department of Ecology uses an 8 ft² area. Our goal is to develop a cross-walk between sampling methods so that B-IBI values can be compared across the region and historical data does not become orphaned. Based on overwhelming feedback to use existing sites, sites will be selected from existing sites and we may be looking to collaborate with you. Stay tuned!

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Field Training, July 21st, 2011

We have a tentative date for field training to evaluate invertebrate collection methods used at WA Department of Ecology. Do you know a location with ample parking and room for ~20 people to be in and around the stream? Please let us know.

New Zealand Mudsnails Discovered in Thornton Creek

Juvenile and adult New Zealand Mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*), an invasive species of aquatic snail, have been confirmed in Thornton Creek near the mouth. Wading boots, especially those with felt-soles, are a known vector for spreading invasive species so be vigilant about cleaning boots when sampling and stay tuned for more information regarding decontamination procedures. See the USGS press release for more information: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2815>.

Contact Us/Stay Involved

How are you using benthic data to protect and restore streams? Please let us know and we will include your news in our next issue. Contact Deb Lester (Deborah.Lester@kingcounty.gov) or Leska Fore (leska.fore@gmail.com).