

## Priority 2 Summary

### Highlights:

#### Current Legislation:

- Comprehensive summary of current policies available by Clauson & Trautman (2015)
- 5 primary entities: federal, state/provincial, tribal, local, non-governmental (Clauson & Trautman, 2015)
- Salish Sea region re-named in 2010 to emphasize the connectedness of the ecosystem across political divides (Clauson & Trautman, 2015)
- 1992: Environmental Cooperation Council (ECC) between Washington State & British Columbia (Wilson, 2020)
  - identify ecological indicators/trends to support science-based policy
  - ECC (Canada) & EPA (U.S.) still exist as separate entities (Wilson, 2020)
    - challenges to public engagement; ECC has no public opportunities for feedback/suggestions (Wilson, 2020)
    - does not recognize the Coast Salish Aboriginal Council as a separate governmental body in the agreement (Wilson, 2020)
    - addresses current issues but does not prepare for future problems (Wilson, 2020)
  - Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM; Wilson, 2020)
    - social, cultural, political context
    - emphasize collaboration across boundaries
- Policies often fail to include Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), sometimes opposing it (Wilson, 2020)
  - Hul'qumi'num opposition to Canada MPA's
- At least 127 current MPAs in Washington State (Hoelting et al., 2013)
  - enforcement challenges resulting for remote and broad locations (Hoelting et al., 2013)
- Varied minimum vessel distance regulations for cetaceans across borders & species (Fraser et al., 2020)

### **-Institutional Designs & Barriers:**

-Government silos or lack of knowledge-sharing/collaboration among governments/organizations contribute to lack of communication and policy setbacks (Sayles & Baggio, 2016)

-Governance networks encourage collaboration, but mandated networks (versus funded or shared interest) experience lowest productivity rates (Sayles & Baggio, 2016)

-Highest levels of collaboration amongst state governance, non-profit entities, and local organizations (Sayles & Baggio, 2016)

-Very little to no interaction among independent organizations (Sayles & Baggio, 2016)

### **-Social Perceptions & Barriers:**

-Individual support for environmental regulations results from personal costs/benefits/interests, ethics, personal beliefs & traditions, and level of trust in government (Hoelting et al., 2013)

-MPA support largely influenced by interest groups (Hoelting et al., 2013)

-Commercial fishers largely opposed to MPAs (predominantly male demographic; Hoelting et al., 2013)

-recreationally/economically dependent on fish

-Conservationists supportive of MPAs (predominantly female demographic; Hoelting et al., 2013)

-Disconnect between self-perceived level of environmental awareness & actual knowledge of current ecological problems (Safford et al., 2014)

-Often unable to determine connections between environmental regulations and ecological problems (Safford et al., 2014)

-Almost 1/3 Puget Sound residents feel NOAA regulations result in negative/neutral community outcomes (Safford et al., 2014)

-majority of Puget Sound residents support NOAA (Safford et al., 2014)

-Perceptions of past/current regulations can influence support for current ones (Safford et al., 2014)

-Barriers to stakeholder involvement: lack of understanding or confidence in current data/ecological systems, finances, Indigenous hesitation to participate (Hoelting et al., 2013)

--80% compliance for minimum vessel distance to cetaceans (Fraser et al., 2020)

-recreational boaters less compliant

- no temporal or annual variation in violations
- differences between recreational/commercial compliance influenced by knowledge/experience level, accountability/responsibility, individual motivations/perceptions/personal drives (Fraser et al., 2020)
- commercial vessels financially dependent on viewings for income and return business but also risk business license if not compliant (Fraser et al., 2020)

### **Encompassing Themes:**

- Social science and personal factors strongly influence the development, implementation, and success (or lack of success) of environmental policies and regulations
- Collaboration among governments, organizations, and stakeholders promotes representation of diverse values and objectives in legislation & increases chances of success

### **Implications/Suggestions for Policy/Management:**

- Increase efforts to develop sense of place and cultural association in educational systems (Wilson, 2020)
- Include the Coast Aboriginal Council in ECC to improve collaboration with Indigenous Nations & inclusion of TEK (Wilson, 2020)
- Involving diverse stakeholders and TEK holders in decision-making process & implementation is vital for successful outcomes
- Meetings should be accessible/affordable to all stakeholders
- Congruent marine mammal distance regulations (MMDRs) across species & political borders (Fraser et al., 2020)
- Realistic commercial whale viewing vessel advertising (to support compliancy; Fraser et al., 2020)

### **Limitations/Knowledge Gaps:**

- The majority of current policies/legislation lack in depth analysis of effectiveness/outcomes
- No available research on personal interactions and motivations in governance network (Sayles & Baggio, 2016)
- Lack of social science research on compliance rates of environmental regulations (mostly observational)

### **Suggested Future Research:**

- In-depth analysis of all current policy considering funding, public support, and policy outcomes/effects (Clauson & Trautman, 2015)
- Identify correlation between governance network structures and ecological goal progress (Sayles & Baggio, 2016)
- Social surveys to determine individual incentives for MPA support (variables such as length of residency in Puget Sound, education level, cultural values, occupation)
- Demographic/cultural/personal factors that influence compliance to environmental regulations