

Decision: Determine process/steps for Forum to weigh in on LIO structure, membership and geographical extent decision

Background:

Sno-Stilly LIO is reevaluating structure and function to address frustrations including: lack of effectiveness, frustration that level of effort is not in line with results, disengagement of some members, and continuing questions on appropriate geographic scope. LIO was also motivated by a memo (from S. Central LIO) that pointed to a re-evaluation of the LIO boundaries and exploration of integrating functions with WRIA-based salmon recovery groups. LIO is exploring their:

- Geographic extent
- Structure, including relationship to salmon recovery groups
- Membership
- Function/activities

LIO has developed new DRAFT Vision, Objectives, and Criteria

Vision

“Implement priority actions, identify additional actions to address gaps, and continue to integrate additional goals and priorities (local and regional) that have been identified in the LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan.”

Objectives

- Be more strategic about targeting existing funding opportunities
- Communicate our goals and priorities to stakeholders and decision-makers with the goal of bringing more resources to the LIO
- Accelerate implementation of our recovery strategies
- Examine alternative structure models that integrate the LIO with other watershed forums and local representation at the State level

LIO has identified criteria that the *new* LIO model(s) should meet/possess

- Broad Expertise
 - Ability to address any aspect of ecosystem recovery within the LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan and broader associated watershed planning processes/documents
- Leadership
 - Broadly involves and engages leadership (management and elected officials) at local level
- Collaborative Implementation
 - Provide regional and local feedback and support loops (State, Federal, and local)
- Continuity/adaptability
 - Membership adaptable over time and independent of geographic boundaries
- Efficiency
 - Commiserate level of input relative to anticipated outcomes/goals

LIO 2017 – 2018 workplan includes:

- Strategic Implementation:
 - development and implementation of a funding strategy;
 - implement strategies in Ecosystem Recovery Plan
 - address gaps and barriers to ecosystem recovery;
 - develop review, recommend NTAs; prioritize local NTAs for funding

- Continued plan development:
 - setting local goals for vital signs like floodplains;
 - establishing monitoring indicators for recovery
- Adaptive management:
 - address ongoing planning needs like status and trends,
 - sequencing priority actions/efforts;
 - LIO priority alignment with regional efforts (i.e. Implementation Strategies)
- Communication:
 - development and implementation of a communications strategy
- Other:
 - includes regional coordination
 - LIO structure evaluation
 - address emerging/critical ecosystem recovery concerns

Key pieces of the LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan

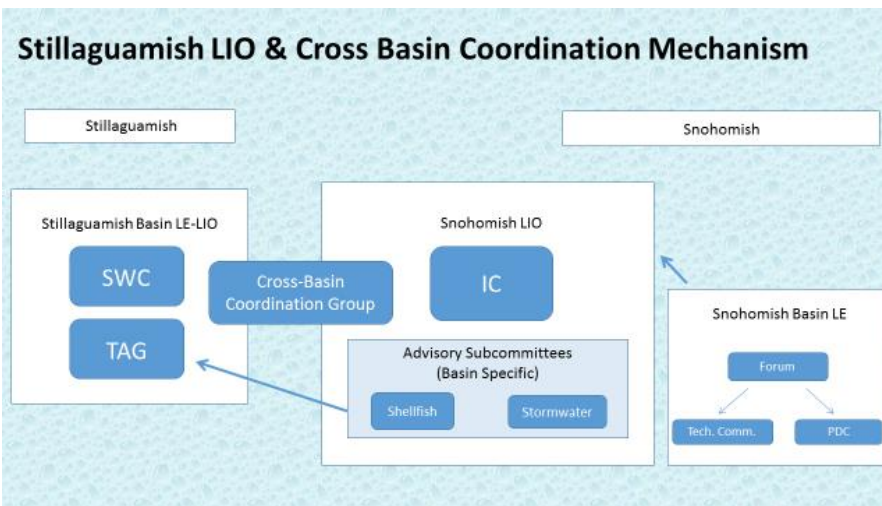
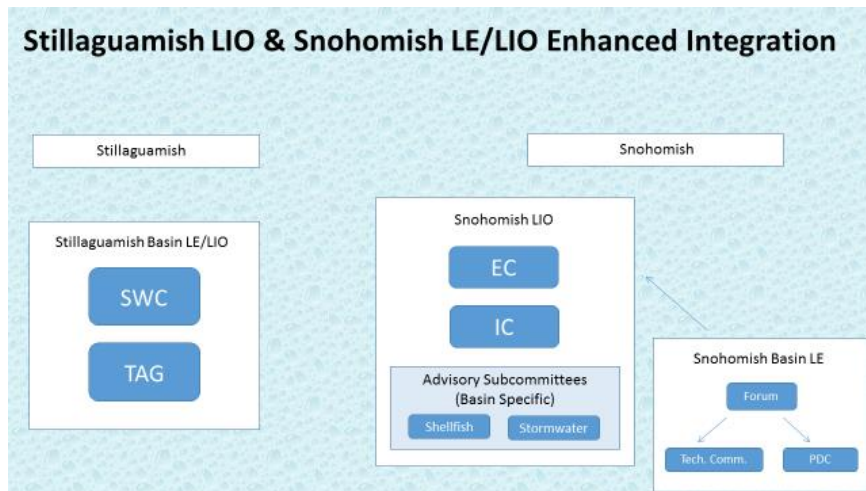
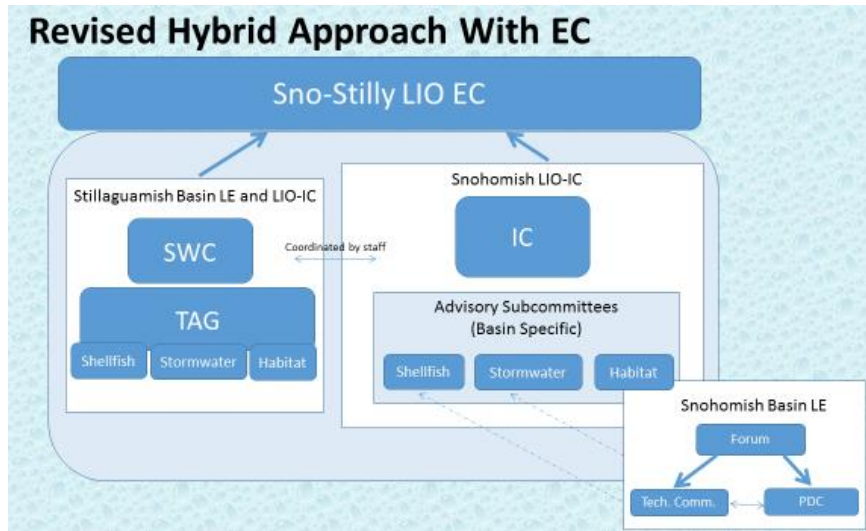
LIO Priority Components and Vital Signs

High Priority Ecosystem Component Vital Signs		Human Health and Quality of Life Linkages	
Chinook Salmon * ¹	Freshwater Quality * ³	Good Governance	Economic Vitality
Floodplains *	Shoreline Armoring	Cultural Wellbeing	Sense of Place ¹⁰
Estuaries * ²	Marine Water Quality	Sound Stewardship	Outdoor Activity ¹¹
Land Development and Cover *	Shellfish Beds ⁴		
Summer Stream Flow *	Toxics in Fish		
Medium Priority Ecosystem Component Vital Signs			
Marine Shorelines and Nearshore ⁺	Freshwater Wetlands ⁺		
Onsite Sewage Systems ⁵	Drinking Water ⁷		
Eelgrass ⁶	Marine Sediment Quality		
Low Priority Ecosystem Component Vital Signs			
Pacific Herring ⁸	Birds		
Orcas	Local Foods ⁹		

Notes:

- * Six components identified as very high priority in 2015
- + Habitat components identified by Sno-Stilly LIO that were not included in the regional PSP Vital Sign list
- 1 Includes other salmonids
- 2 Includes smaller streams, estuarine wetlands, tidal marshes, and mudflats
- 3 Includes stormwater
- 4 Includes all classified commercial/recreational shellfish beds
- 5 Includes wastewater discharged to sewer systems, and municipal sewage
- 6 Includes other habitat-forming submerged vegetation (bull kelp, etc.)
- 7 Includes groundwater
- 8 Includes Pacific herring, surf smelt, sand lance, and other forage fish
- 9 Includes fish, shellfish, wild game, fowl, and plants (but not farmed species/crops)
- 10 Includes shoreline access
- 11 Includes beaches and all nature-based recreation and work

LIO subcommittee has identified three structure alternatives



Benefits of Puget Sound Local Integrating Organizations

Local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, watersheds, marine resources committees, salmon recovery groups, interest groups, businesses, educational organizations, and citizens collaborate to develop and coordinate local integrating organizations (LIOs) to foster implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda. LIOs enable our communities to guide implementation of ecosystem recovery and prioritize local actions for investment.

Funding

- Dispenses annual capacity funding
- Allows for direct funding benefits through the National Estuary Program (NEP)
- Positions area to better access other funding opportunities (including external sources)
- Indicates to funders a local readiness for greater resource allocation
- Harnesses shared capacity to support and leverage resources on consensus priorities

Coordination

- Increases capacity and coordination within the local area and across the region
- Establishes an interface for tribal and local elected officials to communicate and collaborate
- Disseminates pertinent information through a central network
- Shares best available science to guide local decision-making
- Leverages salmon recovery M&AM frameworks for increased action
- Integrates messaging from the local ECO Net to garner community support
- Delivers consistent information from related regional planning efforts
- Provides a platform for voicing local concerns and interests at the regional level
- Injects local priorities into regional and state priorities for ecosystem recovery

Infrastructure

- Founds a grassroots local planning structure (bottom-up approach)
- Harnesses broad participation from local interest groups
- Encourages open dialogue on controversial issues and movement toward common ground
- Achieves efficiencies by facilitating agreements
- Institutes the social infrastructure for future decision-making

Planning

- Ensures greater alignment with the Action Agenda
- Achieves mutually agreed upon local ecosystem recovery plans
- Acknowledges approved prioritization of local strategies, actions, pressures, etc.
- Provides a platform for the integration of human wellbeing outcomes and multi-benefit approaches

Implementation

- Realizes local implementation of high priority ecosystem outcomes
- Magnifies the collective impact within and across the local area
- Highlights new opportunities for next steps