

# An Integrated Long-Term Plan to Improve Aquatic Species & Reduce Flood Damage

Summary of legislative report to the Washington State Legislature, June 2023

**Salmon declines and rising flooding dangers are urgent today, and will intensify over time.**

That's why the Chehalis Basin Strategy is taking action now to protect people, fish, and wildlife, while also planning for the future — thanks to **collaboration across local cities, counties, Tribal Nations, nonprofits**, and leadership from the Chehalis Basin Board and Washington Department of Ecology's Office of Chehalis Basin.

## Our Phased Pathway to Reducing Flood Damage & Restoring Aquatic Life

### PHASE 1

#### Early Action Implementation and Initial Strategy Development

**Timeframe:** 2012 through the 2021-2023 biennium

✓ COMPLETED

#### What Success Looks Like:

- ✓ More than **140 projects** and **\$152 million in investments** have meaningfully restored aquatic species and reduced flood damage across the region
- ✓ **Significant progress** to advance near-term priority actions and long-term planning
- ✓ **Foundational structures in place to advance Phase 2**, including new programs, collaborative decision-making structures, state-of-the-art climate and fish modeling, and exploratory analyses to identify the suite of Strategy options to inform long-term planning decisions



Restoration progress in work along the Satsop River

## PHASE 2

### Mid-Term Action Implementation and Release of the Final Integrated Long-Term Strategy

**Timeframe:** Completion  
between Q3 2024 - 2026

**WE ARE HERE**

#### What Success Looks Like:

This is a critical decision-making period. During Phase 2, the Chehalis Basin Board will finalize a vision for the integrated, long-term Chehalis Basin Strategy, including:

- Provisional decisions on a recommended approach to flood damage reduction
- Long-term investment levels across the various elements of the Strategy
- Prioritization and sequencing of implementation to maximize benefits
- Final quantitative and qualitative outcomes measures to monitor performance
- What, if any, new governance structures might be required to carry out the Strategy's vision

## PHASE 3

### Integrated Strategy Full Implementation with Ongoing Monitoring and Adaptive Management

**Timeframe:** Beginning upon completion  
of Phase 2, as early as Q4 2024

#### What Success Looks Like:

Once all major elements of the long-term Strategy are decided on, the Office of Chehalis Basin, the Chehalis Basin Board, and partners will continue to work collaboratively to:

- Continuing to secure appropriate funding from diverse sources
- Establish any new governance structures identified as necessary
- Scale implementation to meet the Strategy goals within a determined planning horizon
- Adaptively manage implementation and investments to optimize success

**The Chehalis Basin is the center of some of Washington state's most vibrant communities, important industries, critical transportation corridors, and vital aquatic life.** As programs and projects across the Chehalis Basin Strategy continue to scale and mature in the coming years, ongoing investments will create even more positive benefits for the region and the state.



**Rooted in a set of shared values and commitment to this region, we accomplish more when we work together.**

**READ THE  
FULL REPORT**



**CHEHALIS BASIN  
STRATEGY**

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