

CHAPTER SIX - SHORELINES ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

It is fitting that Sequim's "*friendly . . . rural atmosphere. . .*" be extended to the shores of Sequim Bay, embracing the rich, natural and cultural heritage that makes the community of Sequim so unique. This stretch of saltwater shoreline with its traditional rural beach houses, first class public marina, and the roadside panoramic views of the historic Bay, is an integral part of the City's diverse history and development.

The Washington State Shoreline Management Act requires that local governments and state agencies review their plans, regulations, and ordinances that apply to areas adjacent to shoreline jurisdictions; and, then modify those plans, regulations, and ordinances so they "achieve a consistent use policy" in conformance with the Act and the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) of the community. This means that this Shorelines Element of the *City of Sequim's Comprehensive Plan* and the City's development regulations must be consistent with the Shoreline Management Act.

After the Growth Management Act was passed, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) revised its Shoreline Master Program Handbook to include guidelines on integrating growth management with shoreline management. The guidelines identified a number of areas wherein joint planning and analysis should occur. Those areas included inventories; analyses of trends and issues; land capability/suitability; and public involvement. Examples of specific areas of integration discussed in the guidelines included riparian areas; wetland protection; flood hazard areas and flood control planning; water quality and stormwater runoff; groundwater protection; and geological hazards; as well as the accessibility to these same shorelines by the public.

A number of optional mechanisms for integrating plan documents and the regulatory processes were also presented. The guidelines also included a number of options for improving local permit processing systems and for combined public hearings.

The most significant requirement was a provision that required a county or city planning under GMA to include its Shoreline Master Program as a sub-element of its comprehensive plans. The City of Sequim's Shoreline Management Plan is in the Appendix of this updated *Comprehensive Plan*. Ecology retained its authority to review and approve or reject the shoreline master program portion of comprehensive plans.

SEQUIM SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

In 1992, the City of Sequim annexed property on the east side of the City that included approximately 5570 feet of shoreline on Sequim Bay (Map 6-1). That shoreline area contains a variety of features and existing land uses including a wetland, single-family homes, recreational campgrounds, and the John Wayne Marina. The annexation marked the first time

that *shorelines of the state*, as defined by the Shoreline Management Act, were contained within City boundaries. The City has its own Shoreline Master Program, and its own Shoreline Management Plan, both of which have been approved by the Department of Ecology (DOE).

Integration of the GMA and the SMP began with the original Land Use Goals and Policies (1996). The policies supported broad goals for protection of Sequim's shorelines and suggested specific Land Use policies for the four proposed shoreline environments: urban, suburban, conservancy, and aquatic. These Policies are incorporated in the current Shoreline Master Program, and are integrated into the Shorelines Element Goals and Policies contained in this updated *Comprehensive Plan*.

SHORELINE ENVIRONMENTS

The "Location" Column in Table 6-1 indicates whether the shoreline environment is located within the incorporated City of Sequim or the Sequim Urban Growth Area (UGA). Shorelines located within the unincorporated UGA will continue to be regulated under the Clallam County Shoreline Master Program until such time as they become part of the City of Sequim through the annexation process. The Shoreline Master Program will be applicable to those shoreline areas at the time of annexation.

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Table 6-1: Shoreline Designations, Shoreline Master Program

Environment	Location	Description
Urban	City	All shorelines associated with the John Wayne Marina.
Suburban	UGA	All shorelines between the John Wayne Marina and the northern boundary of the Sequim UGA on Sequim Bay.
Suburban	City	All shorelines between the John Wayne Marina Urban shoreline and the intersection of White Feather Way and West Sequim Bay Road.
Conservancy	City	All shorelines between the intersection of White Feather Way and West Sequim Bay Road and the southern boundary of the salt marsh on Sequim Bay.
Suburban	City	All shorelines between the southern boundary of the salt marsh on West Sequim Bay and the southern boundary of the Sequim City limits on West Sequim Bay.
Aquatic	City/UGA	All marine waters of Sequim Bay seaward of the ordinary high water mark.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

Sequim Bay has been designated a Shoreline of State-Wide Significance and a critical water quality study area by the Department of Ecology. In addition, the relationship of water quality in Sequim Bay has been addressed in several regional Watershed Plans. The key strategies and planning suggestions of these plans are addressed in the Appendix of this Plan.

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SHORELINES ELEMENT GOALS

“Goals” are measurable and observable outcomes that the *Comprehensive Plan* anticipates in conformance with the Growth Management Act.

SLG-1

Provide for compatible residential, commercial and tourism uses of the shorelines and water areas while enhancing, preserving and maintaining the quality of the shoreline.

SLG-2

Ensure the optimum opportunity for participation by Sequim area residents in the decision-making processes, which may affect shoreline character.

SLG-3

Acknowledge the critical importance of a balanced and diversified local economy for Sequim that shoreline activities can contribute to.

SLG-4

Establish for the public safe, convenient, and diverse access to the water and to the shorelines.

SLG-5

Ensure that public access will not have adverse effects on fragile natural features of the shoreline or water areas.

SLG-6

Encourage diverse and appropriate water-oriented recreational opportunities, which are compatible with over-water and shoreline locations and the environmental conditions of the natural site.

SLG-7

Assure preservation of the scenic and non-renewable natural resources of the various shoreline environments for the benefit of existing and future generations.

SLG-8

Preserve, protect and/or restore shoreline or water areas to their natural states, which have archaeological, historic, cultural, educational, or scientific value.

SLG-9

Provide for public uses in a variety of residential, commercial and recreational activities on or adjacent to the shorelines and water areas.

SLG-10

Assure shared public access to these shorelines for local residents, and the citizens of the community, through residential and commercial developments that are contiguous to these shoreline environments.

SLG-11

Prohibit activities and or uses that would strip native vegetation from the shorelines, or could cause erosion or sedimentation, or otherwise adversely impact the local wildlife or aquatic habitats.

SLG-12

Create opportunities for the Port of Port Angeles and the City of Sequim to work together to provide enhanced opportunities to use the shoreline environments for recreation, residential and commercial uses.

SLG-13

Encourage the City's acquisitions of shoreline properties and capacity to provide saltwater access to Sequim Bay for the employment, recreation and enjoyment of its citizens.

SLG-14

Expedite the extension of the City sewer line to John Wayne Marina to improve and preserve water quality and usage at the Marina, for all users.

CHAPTER SIX

SHORELINES ELEMENT POLICIES

“Policies” are the guidelines as to how the staff and the readers of the *Comprehensive Plan* shall achieve the goals of the Shorelines Element of this *Comprehensive Plan*.

SLP-1

Designate urban shorelines for higher intensity land use, including residential, commercial, port and marina, and recreational development.

SLP-2

Develop urban shorelines for a variety of urban uses, with priority given to water-dependent, water-related, and water-enjoyment uses.

SLP-3

Direct new development on or near the urban shorelines already developed areas to the extent possible.

SLP-4

Provide the public with visual corridors and physical public access to the shoreline when any new development of these urban shorelines occur.

SLP-5

Encourage coordinated efforts between the City of Sequim and Port of Port Angeles to improve recreational and commercial access to saltwater shorelines on Sequim Bay.

SLP-6

Encourage the redevelopment and renewal of sub-standard, degraded or obsolete manmade shoreline areas.

SLP-7

Develop urban shorelines to be compatible with uses and activities on adjacent lands.

SLP-8

Provide for permanent residential and recreational needs where adequate facilities for sewage disposal and water supply can be provided.

SLP-9

Locate site design and maintain residential and other development to protect, enhance, and be compatible with the shoreline environment.

SLP-10

Include public access opportunities to the shorelines when planning for residential development including short subdivisions, subdivisions, and planned unit developments along these shoreline environments.

SLP-11

Protect environmentally sensitive areas which have received Conservancy Environment designation, including steep slopes, unstable bluffs, and wetlands.

SLP-12

Designate preferred uses of shoreline environments that are non-consumptive of physical and biological resources and do not substantially degrade or alter the existing character of the shoreline area.

SLP-13

Prohibit activities or uses that would strip the shoreline of vegetative cover, cause substantial erosion or sedimentation, or adversely affect wildlife or aquatic life without mitigation.

SLP-14

Encourage aqua-cultural, agricultural, and recreational activities that will not be detrimental to the shoreline character, scenic quality, and natural systems should be encouraged.

SLP-15

Prohibit commercial and industrial uses, other than low-intensity aqua-cultural uses.

SLP-16

Design and minimize new development to minimize the need for construction of structural shoreline stabilization and flood control works.

SLP-17

Develop areas that are on or in the water to be compatible with the adjacent upland environment land use designation.

SLP-18

Locate and design developments and activities using aquatic areas to minimize interference with navigation, minimize adverse visual impacts, allow for passage of fish and other aquatic animals, and minimize adverse effects on the Sequim Bay's water quality, geo-hydraulic shoreline processes, and biological resources.

SLP-19

Encourage the joint use of structures permitted on the water for commercial purposes.

SLP-20

Prohibit land-based motor vehicles in tidelands except when necessary for emergency vehicles, authorized construction or repair, or boat launching.

SLP-21

Allow aquaculture practices and production in those tidelands, waters, and beds most suitable for such use.

SLP-22

Protect fishing and recreational uses of the water against competing uses that would interfere with these activities in appropriate areas.

SLP-23

Prohibit deep draft uses in areas requiring extensive initial or maintenance dredging, except when it is necessary to protect the John Wayne Marina's activities.

SLP-24

Permit live-aboard vessels or houseboats where compatible with the surrounding area and where adequate sanitary sewer facilities exist within the marina and on the live-aboard vessel.