

Hood Canal Bridge Assessment

06.12.2026

PRTPO Executive Board Meeting

Shaara Ainsley, Associate Director of Projects, Long Live the Kings

Restoring wild salmon and steelhead and supporting sustainable fishing in the Pacific Northwest







What We'll Cover

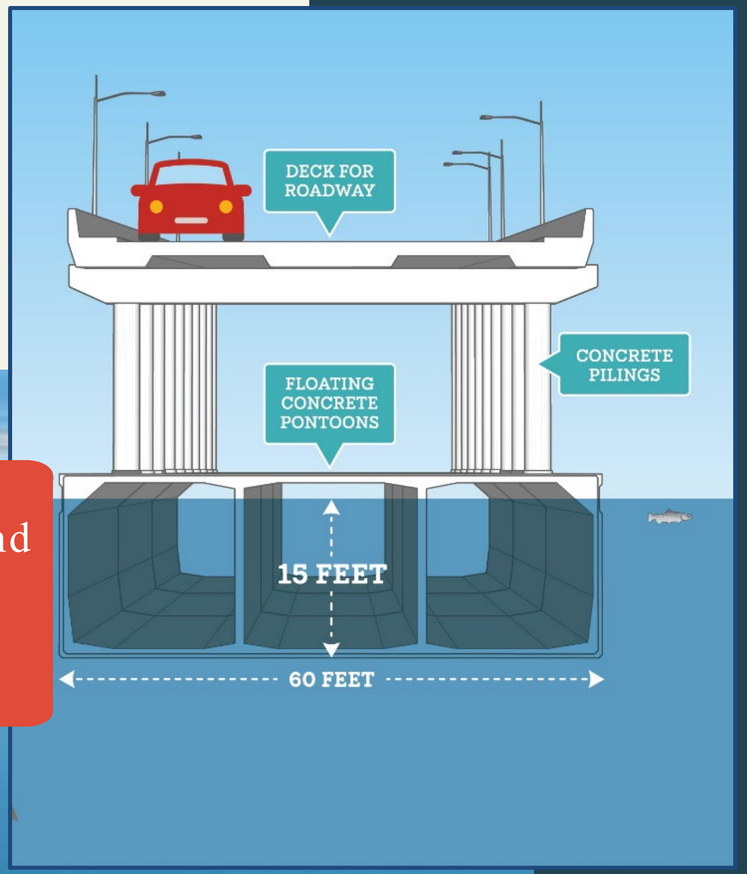


- Project Background & Goals
- Current Phase
- Community Study
- Conceptual Design

About the Bridge

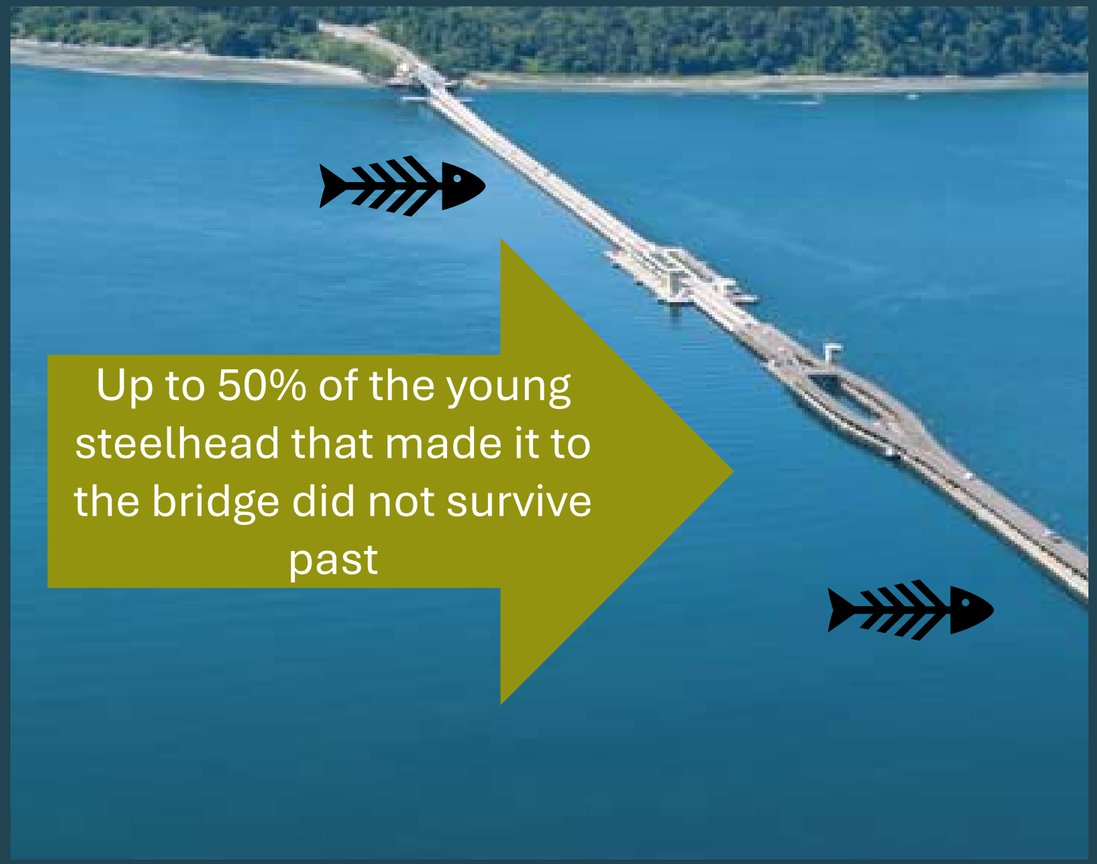


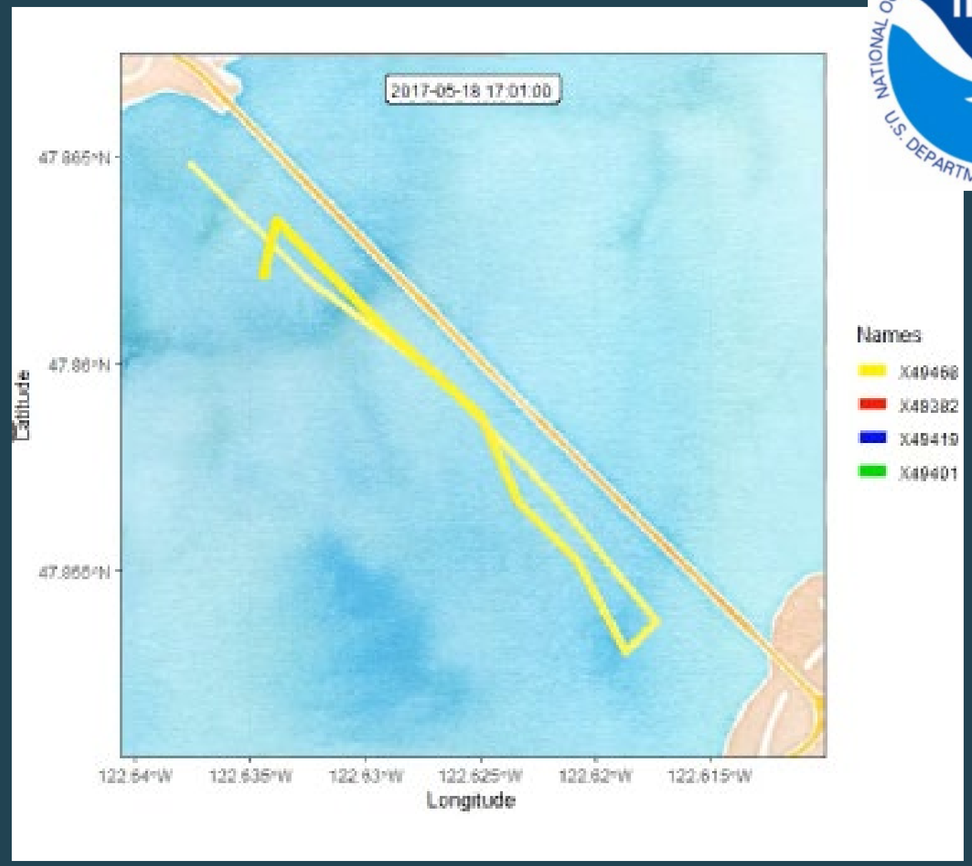
Pontoons span 83% width of Hood Canal



Pontoons extend 15 feet underwater

Deadly Problem





HCB Assessment Partners

Management Committee:

- **Tribes:** Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Skokomish Indian Tribe and Point-no-Point Treaty Council
- **Counties:** Jefferson County, Kitsap County, Mason County
- **Local Government council:** Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- **State Agencies:** WDFW, WDOT, Ecology, PSP, DNR
- **Federal Agencies and Divisions:** US Navy, USFWS, EPA, USCG, NOAA, PNNL

Assessment Team:

Problem Identified

#1

Bridge is acting as a barrier the young steelhead and surface water

#2

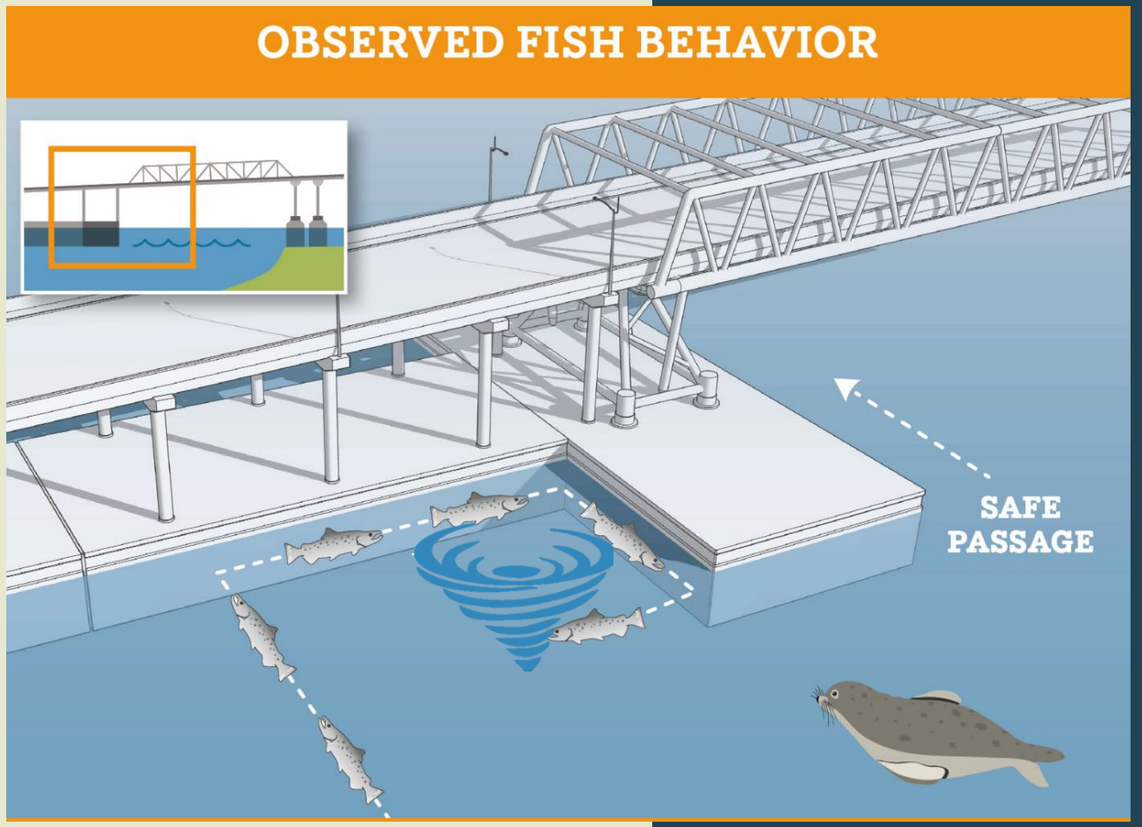
Confused fish wander around

#3

Abundant harbor seals catch the confused fish more easily

#4

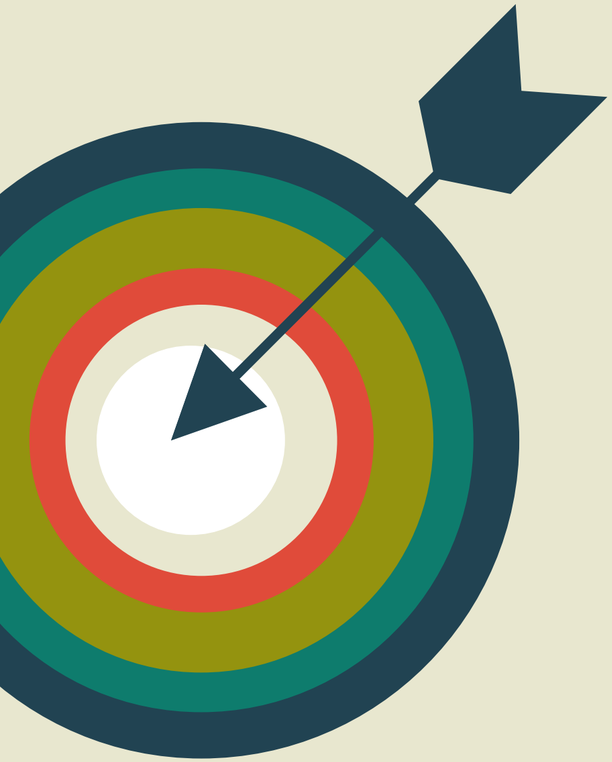
Lights at night give seals an advantage



Considering Solutions



Current Project Goals



1st Goal

Significantly increase steelhead survival past the current Bridge

2nd Goal

Identify whether a re-designed bridge could eliminate impacts to steelhead and salmon, and better serve people

nəxʷqíyt nəxʷsƛ̓áýəm
PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE

HCB Conceptual Design

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe secured funding to develop a conceptual design for a possible new bridge:

1. Community Needs Study:

- HDR, Inc.
- Report completed in **February 2026**

2. Conceptual Re-design:

- COWI North America
- Preliminary Report due **June 2026**
- Final Report due **October 2026**

Steering Team

CLALLAM COUNTY 1854

HOOD CANAL COORDINATING COUNCIL Est. 1985

JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

JEFFERSON COUNTY WASHINGTON

KITSAP COUNTY 18 57 WASHINGTON

LONG LIVE THE KINGS

SKOKOMISH INDIAN TRIBE

UNITED STATES NAVY

THE GREAT SEAL · PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM NATION WASHINGTON STATE

WSDOT

What do we mean by ‘Conceptual Design’?

What this project will do:

- Broadly identify needs of the community
- Understand feasibility of whether a new (or modified) bridge could address community and ecosystem needs
- Provide an initial sketch of timeframes and funding needs

What this project does not do:

- Take any official steps towards bridge design or construction

Community Outreach Recap

10 events

350+ interactions

- ✓ 3 farmers markets
- ✓ 3 ferry tabling events
- ✓ 2 in person listening sessions
- ✓ 1 Bridge Talk event
- ✓ 1 webinar

5 **CBO*** Interviews

11 Partner Listening Sessions

- ✓ Chimacum School District
- ✓ Clallam Transit
- ✓ Kitsap Economic Development Alliance
- ✓ Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ West Sound Cycling Club
- ✓ Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- ✓ Five State Agencies
- ✓ Two Federal Agencies
- ✓ Three Counties

4 area Tribes

Tribal Participants:

- ✓ Jamestown S’Klallam
- ✓ Port Gamble S'Klallam
- ✓ Skokomish
- ✓ Suquamish

***CBO – Community based organization**

Hood Canal Bridge Assessment



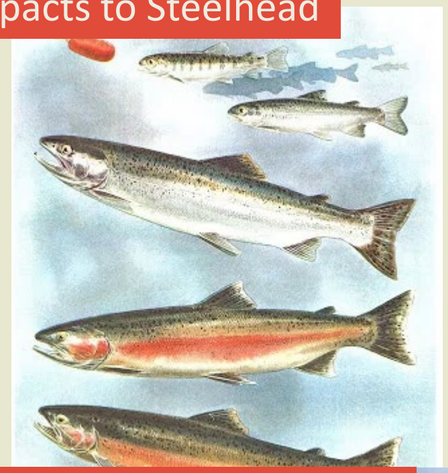
HDR's Survey says...

- 614 responses, mostly from the Olympic Peninsula
- 96% of respondents use the bridge
- Most (42%) use the bridge a few times for personal, for appointments, and for shopping (only 7% for commuting)
- Top two concerns: **delays due to opening** and unannounced openings
- 45% aware of fish impacts; 32% very concerned about those impacts — *Top concern*
- Important for a new bridge
  - High enough that it never has to open
  - Fewer openings
- Very important for new bridge
  - Keep bridge in same location and same size to reduce/avoid property impacts
  - Doesn't have to open for boat traffic
  - Reduced number of openings



What did we hear in the listening sessions?

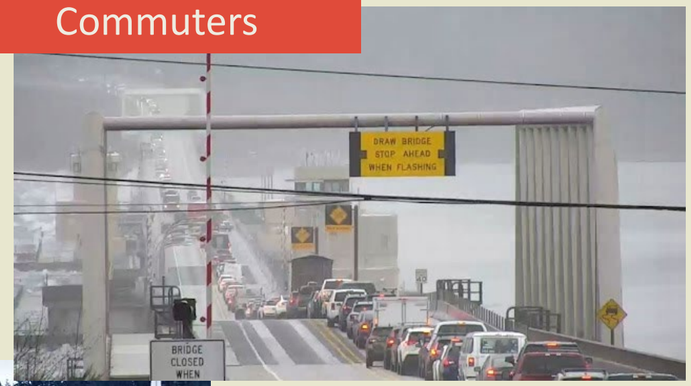
Impacts to Steelhead



Essential for tourism



Commuters



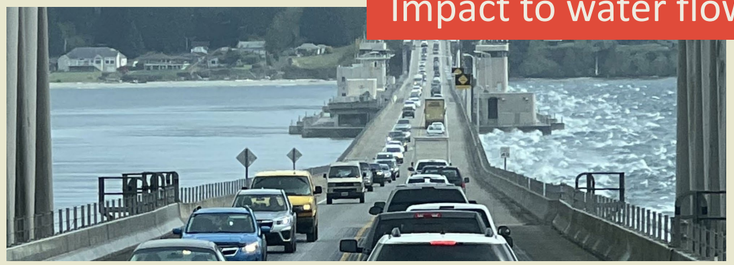
Bike/Walking Path



Bridge closure impacts



Impact to water flow



High Maintenance



Conceptual Re-design Engineers

Mersey Gateway Bridge, UK

A catalyst for growth in North West England



1915 Çanakkale Bridge, Türkiye

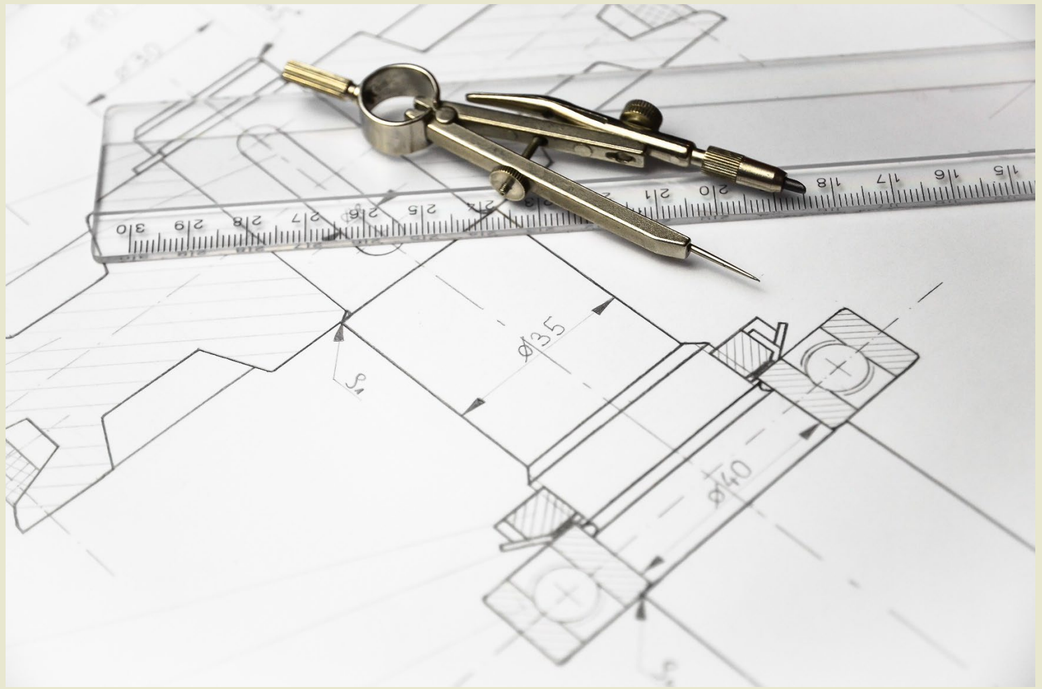
Together, we design a world record-breaking bridge for the 21st century



COWI headquarters is in Denmark, and COWI in North America has offices in Seattle

Conceptual Design

- Visual representation of a potential replacement bridge
- Detailed description of design limitations
- Likely duration of time required for construction
- Estimated costs and benefits of the fully realized design



nəxʷqíyt nəxʷsƛ̓áýəm
PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE

HCB Conceptual Design

1. Community Needs Study:

- HDR, Inc.
- Report completed in **February 2026**

2. Conceptual Re-design:

- COWI North America
- Preliminary Report due **June 2026**
- Final Report due **October 2026**

Public-facing report due next Spring 2027

40th ANNIVERSARY
LONG LIVE THE KINGS

Thank you!

Shaara Ainsley
sainsley@lltk.org