

Lake Shore Property Owner Update

Nov. 28, 2009

This update is provided to you courtesy of WSSA – WA Sensible Shorelines Association

In This Issue –

- Meeting Recap – A Hook On the Chinook
- R.W. Thorpe Associates Joins WSSA Team
- Agency Panel Presentation – Next PC Meeting
- WSSA Requests Equal Time
- Shoreline Issues Elsewhere

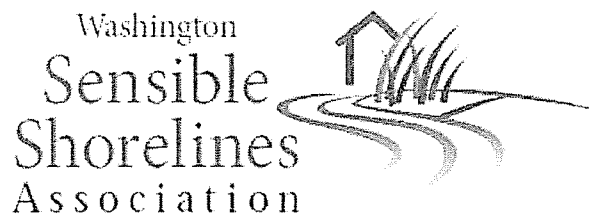
Meeting Recap – A Hook on the Chinook

At its Nov. 18th meeting the Bellevue Planning Commission heard three scientists discuss their knowledge and studies of salmon in our lakes. Roger Tabor covered the patterns of travel of Chinook along shorelines, their tendency to avoid low level light areas during the day, and, ironically, their attraction to artificial light at night. Most critical, he admitted that the importance of the lake shoreline to these fish is unknown, though he felt all shallow waters and open beaches are important.

Consultant Jeff Parsons stressed the importance of woody debris in shore waters. He noted that shoreline “armoring” (bulkheads or even rockeries above the water line) disconnects the upland habitat from that along the immediate shore. Bulkheads, which by definition are at or below the waterline, reflect waves which scour the near shore. He emphasized the difference between Lakes Sammamish and Washington noting that boating activity has greater proportionate impact on Sammamish while wind has a greater impact on Lake Washington because of its expansiveness.

The final speaker was Jose Casquerrera, also an environmental consultant. He listed a variety of impacts due to bulkheads. Important among his points was his challenge that a significant impact cannot be made by changes on a property-by-property basis. He advocated a larger program which he described as a “banking” effort. An example would be a project covering an extensive length of shoreline. He also advocated pilot projects to test effectiveness.

Each presentation was followed by questions from both the Commission and some of the nearly 50 visitors in the audience.



Continued on
Page_2