

**Fellowship projects must address research topics outlined in the Puget Sound Partnership's
DRAFT* list of 2025-2029 Science Work Plan priority science work actions:**

- Monitor the current impacts of ocean and terrestrial climate change and variability on Puget Sound infrastructure, ecosystems, native and invasive species, pathogens, human health, and quality of life
- How will climate change affect salmon survival at specific life stages, directly or through indirect effects to habitat and prey?
- How will future climate and ocean conditions and variability affect both fisheries and the viability and harvestability of shellfish?
- What are the impacts of a changing climate on disease and toxic contaminants on salmon, forage fish, marine mammals, and marine vegetation, and people?
- What is the abundance, distribution, and trend in forage fish population and what factors affect this?
- Develop and apply tools to provide information and warnings about potential harm to resources, environmental, animal, and human health from extreme natural events. Assess responses to events and compile lessons learned.
- Identify, prioritize, and monitor chemicals, pollutants, and pathogens with impacts to marine and freshwater organisms. This includes biomonitoring and other types of monitoring for exposures and disease outcomes, chemicals of emerging concerns, and areas requiring cleanup.
- How does exposure to toxic chemicals, emerging contaminants, and pathogens impact human health and wellbeing? How can new approaches improve this understanding?
- What are sources, loading, transport, fate, and effects of toxic and potentially toxic substances in Puget Sound?
- Identify and assess drivers of land use trends and decisions (e.g. climate change, migration, urbanization, development) that are impacting the Puget Sound social-ecological system. How can impacts be mitigated through planning?
- Monitor habitat and landscape changes resulting from development. Assess compliance of current regulation and support net ecological gain monitoring.
- How can ecosystem management efforts be designed to better reflect understandings of people's preferences, values, and behaviors?
- What are the connections between cultural practices, local foods, and ecosystem management? How do toxics, including emerging chemicals and biotoxins, and climate change affect these connections?
- What opportunities are there to improve the equity and effectiveness of pollution control and cleanup programs through applying social science approaches (including public finance, benefit-cost analysis, motivation of behaviors, and program evaluation)?
- What are the impacts and management implications of projected future climate conditions and climate variability on floodplains, watersheds, and shorelines? Assess the effectiveness of efforts to mitigate impacts.
- Assess effectiveness of best management practices and of state, regional, and local programs to prevent, treat, and clean up air, water, soil, sediment, and noise pollution.
- Develop a social-sciences and epidemiologic informed monitoring and evaluation plan to help track effectiveness of programs.

**A final version of these priority science actions will be available in late December 2025*