## Data Worlds of Puget Sound's nearshore ecosystem

Making sense of middle-spaces in multiorganizational decision environments

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## What this presentation is about

### Knowledge Production GIS (KPGIS)

The research subjects of this study are GIS situated in postmodern science

### Data Worlds theory/method conceptual frame

An approach to trace the constitution and change of social and technical practices that handle and apply spatial data.

### Puget Sound nearshore

A case study for these constructs

#### **The Puget Sound**



"Puget Sound is ecologically delicate and its symptoms of environmental distress are undeniable and getting worse."

Gov. Gregoire

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#### 1990-2001 population and impervious surface change



# Change in impervious surfaces: 1991-2001

"Stormwater runoff flushes at least 52 million pounds of petroleum, toxic metals and other pollutants into the Sound every year."

- David Dicks,Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership



### Predicted population increase: 2005-2025



### State and federal threatened or endangered species







#### e and federal listed species in Puget Sound of October 20061

	COMMON NAME	STATE STATUS	FEDERAL STATUS
ALC: NOT ALC: NOT	Chinook Salmon (Puget Sound)	с	т
	Chum Salmon (Hood Canal/ E. Strait of Juan de Fuca)	с	т
	Coho Salmon (Puget Sound/ Strait of Georgia)		с
	Bull Trout (Coastal/Puget Sound)	с	т
a la	Pacific Hake	С	С
	Pacific Cod	С	1
	Walleye Pollock (South Puget Sound)	с	Co
Sector Control	Pacific Herring (Cherry Point/ Discovery Bay)	с	с
	Brown Rockfish	С	
Contraction of the	Copper Rockfish	с	-
1022010	Greenstriped Rockfish	С	-
	Widow Rockfish	С	-
	Yelloweye Rockfish	С	
1000	Quillback Rockfish	С	-
	Black Rockfish	С	
	China Rockfish	С	
10000	Tiger Rockfish	С	
	Bocaccio Rockfish	С	-
	Canary Rockfish	С	1

GROUP	COMMON NAME	STATE STATUS	FEDE STAT
<i>(</i> 0	Northern Pacific Humpback Whale	E	E
AL S	Steller Sea Lion	Т	Т
AMN	Orca	E	E
N	Pacific Harbor Porpoise	С	
	Northern Sea Otter	E	Co
	Bald Eagle	Т	T*
	Canada Goose, Aleutian	M	Co
	Golden Eagle	С	
	Marbled Murrelet	Т	Т
S	Tufted Puffin	С	Co
BIRC	Brandt's Cormorant	С	
	Cassin's Auklet	С	Co
	Common Murre	С	
	Western Grebe	С	
	Snowy Plover	E	T
ATES	Olympia Oysters	с	
TEBR	Newcomb's Littorine Snail	с	Co
INVEF	Pinto (Northern) Abalone	с	



State and Federal Status

- E Endangered
- T Threatened
- C Candidate

Co - Concern M - Monitor

### The nearshore





# Shellfish harvest area closures 2007

Loss of 'goods and services



#### Environmental goods and services worldview





#### NOAA 2006 Sound Science: Synthesizing Ecological and Socio-economic Information about the Puget Sound Ecosystem http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/shared/sound\_science/documents/sound\_science\_draft4\_21\_06.pdf

### The solution is... A new state agency:

PugetSoundPartnership

"The legislature therefore creates a new Puget Sound partnership to coordinate and lead the effort to restore and protect Puget Sound, and intends that **all governmental entities**, **including federal and state agencies**, **tribes**, **cities**, **counties**, **ports**, **and special purpose districts**, support and help implement the partnership's restoration efforts."

#### The PSP's five mandates:

- •**Prioritize** cleanup and improvement projects
- •Make decisions on science
- •Coordinate federal, state, local, tribal and private resources
- •Hold people and organizations **accountable for results**
- •Create a roadmap to make Puget Sound healthy again

### The first partners

Washington's Departments of: Natural Resource Ecology Fish & Wildlife

Tribal representatives: Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Non-Profit: People for Puget Sound Federal: United States Army Corps of Engineers United States EPA NOAA

#### The PSP 'Action Agenda' process diagram





#### Is this any better?

#### PUGET SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY Institutional "Map"



#### Hierarchy and accountability is inconsistent



- Interorganizational coordination
- Granularity of organizational hierarchy and mandate
- Inconsistent & incompatible data
- Standards? Everyone has some
- Recognized data gaps
- Need for best available science
- Budget uncertainty
- When will enough be known to make decisions?
- Will others agree that decisions made are the best choices?

A difficult environment for GIS?

### Situated GIS and 'middle spaces'

Knowledge History Culture Practice Society Technology Conflict Funding

Legitimacy

Credit

Ownership

Publication

Power

Data

Measurement

Metadata

#### The research subjects are situated Knowledge Production GIS (KPGIS):



'Data Worlds' conceptual framework - Part 1

### Data Actor-Networks:

A heterogeneous collection of human, nonhuman and hybrid human/nonhuman actors participating in some collective activity for a period of time. (Latour, Callon, Law)

Almost everything GIS is connected to data like flypaper. What's stuck to the data?

#### Network intermediaries

- Any interaction that produces mutually influential negotiation among actors
- Interaction with intermediaries that exert 'power at a distance'
- Popular favorites: Money, power, technology, ownership, practice, hierarchy, mandates, knowledge, technology and artifacts for example.

'Data Worlds' conceptual framework – Part 2

### Social Worlds

...are loosely or rigid structured units in which people share resources and information. They are characterized by a commitment fo common assumptions about what is important, and what should be done. (Clarke, Fujimura and Star)

People cluster around discourses that negotiate and share knowledge and facts. How does interaction create order?

What creates or inspires order?

- Bandwagons: Events or movements that require or inspire a response or choices that create common understanding and order among worlds.
- Mavericks: Entities, often people, who emerge or take action that suddenly changes the discourse.
- Knowledge as part of discourse
- Do-able problems

#### How are these concepts deployed?

- 1. Identify the issues and organizations involved
- 2. Seek representatives who will discuss their work, organizations and perspectives on happenings
- 3. Work with them to articulate and document their worldviews
- 4. Triangulate informants' contributions to identify stabilized Data Worlds interactions and conflicts
- 5. Map relationship diagrams from multiple perspectives



### The PSP is a 'do-able problem' with a history

- 1985: Puget Sound Water Quality Authority
- 1996: Puget Sound Action Team and the
- 2002: Puget Sound Assessment and Monitoring Program
- 2005 Puget Sound Partnership
- 2008 PSP Action Agenda released

Pre-PSP bandwagon and maverick events

- 1850 Tribal treaties with the state
  Reservations and half of the salmon harvest
- 1972 Salmon use of the nearshore is identified
- 1973 USEPA Endangered Species Act
- 1974 Judge Boldt Decision
   Ratifies the Tribes' rights to salmon and management
- 1978 Coastal Zone Atlas published
- 1990s Drastic reduction of herring populations
- 1999 Salmon species are ESA listed

#### The first salmon Data Worlds



### Coastal Zone Atlas Data Worlds 1974-2001



### Change analysis project Data Worlds: top level



#### Puget Sound River History Project



## Shoreform Change



### Conclusions

- Multi-organizational decision environments are shaped by stabilized relationships with data and knowledge production
- These relationships are not captured in metadata or reportable by individual informants
- The result of a Data Worlds investigation could be valuable 'training' tool for examination of interorganizational relationships
- People new to a decision making environment will benefit from a Data Worlds investigation