



Proposed Final Report: Puget Sound Partnership

Legislative Auditor's Conclusion:

The Partnership has **improved the information** it shares with the Legislature and public about the health of Puget Sound.

However, **short planning timeframes, an incomplete inventory of actions and funding, and an unclear monitoring approach** hinder recovery efforts.



3 Legislative Auditor Recommendations:

1

Planning and recovery
timeframes

2

More complete inventory
of recovery actions

3

Clarify monitoring
approach

Partnership
&
OFM
concur

4th JLARC report about the Partnership



The Partnership: A state agency created by the Legislature in 2007 to guide Puget Sound recovery by 2020



Legislation noted that the Puget Sound is in “serious crisis”

Six recovery goals set in statute:

1. Healthy human population
2. Quality of life
3. Native species
4. Habitat protected and restored
5. Water quantity
6. Water quality

Legislation called for more coherent and effective system to guide recovery effort



Partnership

112 cities

State agencies

12 counties

Federal agencies

17 Tribes

Special purpose districts

Local coordinating groups

Private organizations

Partnership's role in recovery

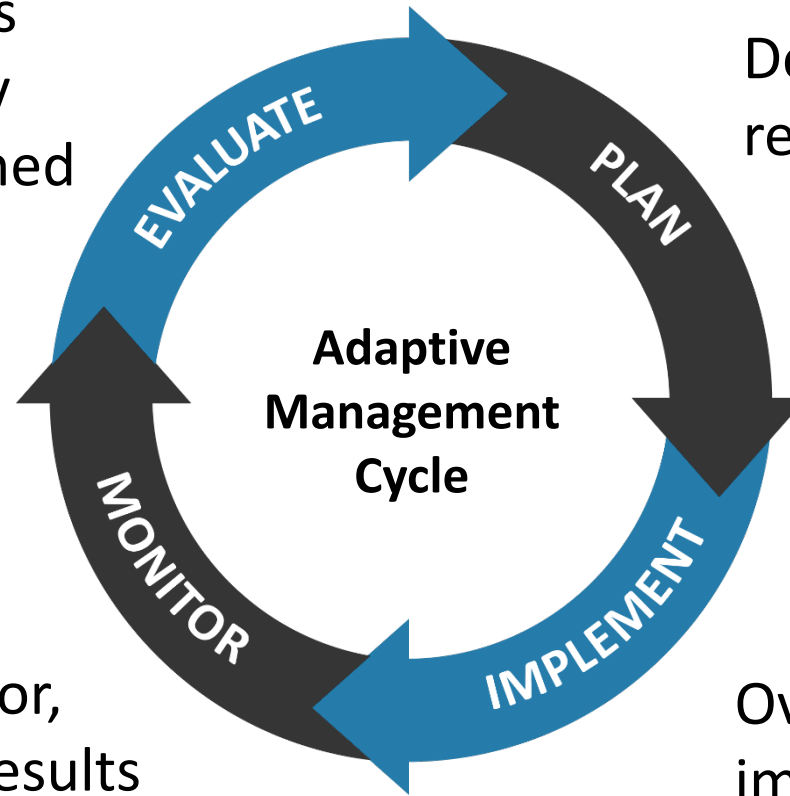
No regulatory authority

Does not fund recovery actions

Partnership's role in recovery

Evaluate progress towards recovery and lessons learned

Develop regional recovery plan



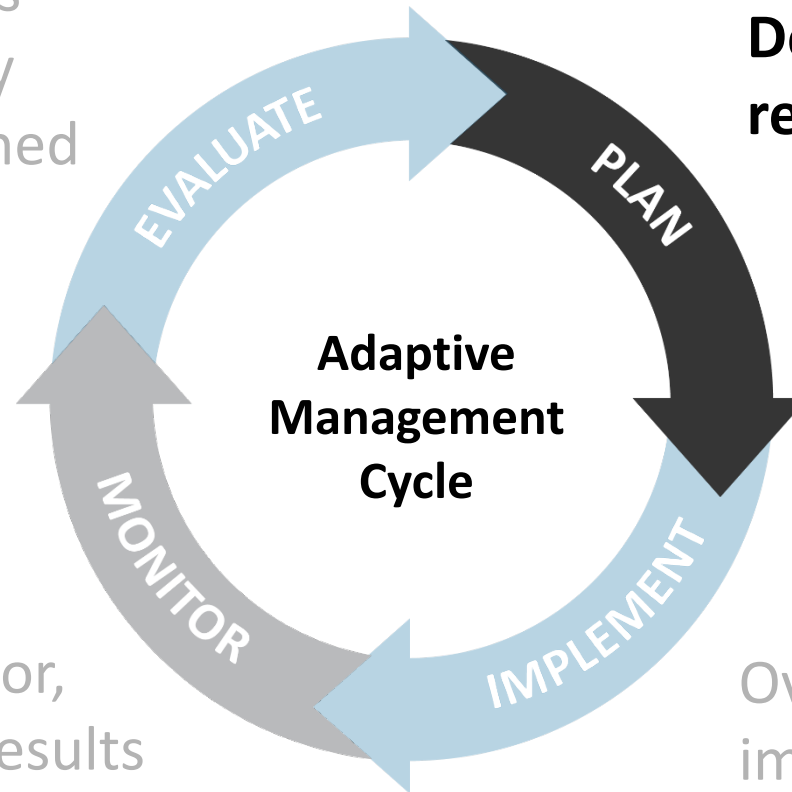
Track, monitor, and report results

Oversee implementation and prioritize actions

Plan – Implement – Monitor – Evaluate

Evaluate progress towards recovery and lessons learned

Develop regional recovery plan



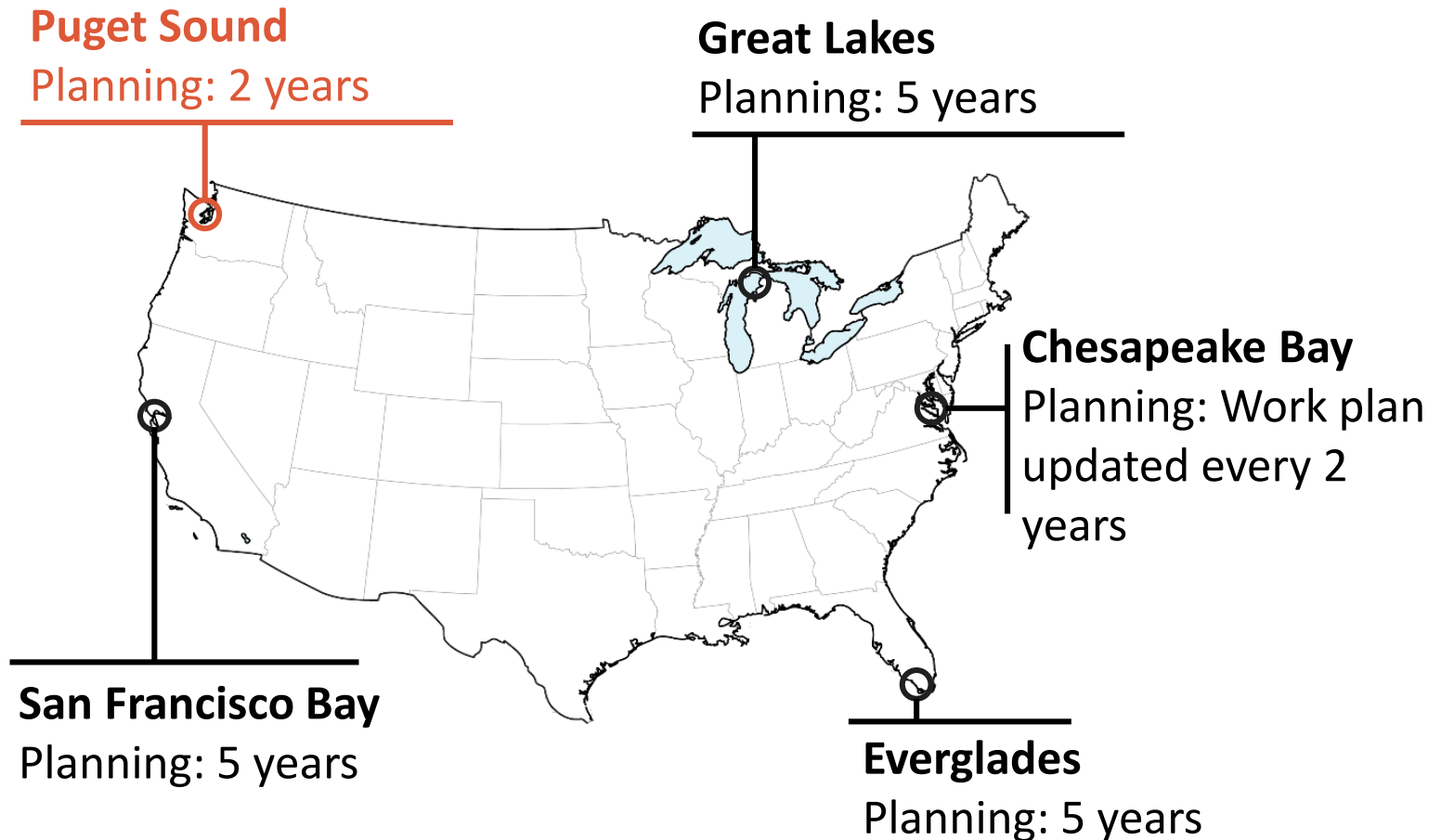
Track, monitor, and report results

Oversee implementation and prioritize actions

- Regional recovery plan is called the **Action Agenda**
- **Advisory boards and over 300 partners are involved** in creating the Action Agenda
- **Statute directs:**
 - what is included
 - how often to update the plan



Statutory timeframes for planning are comparatively short



Progress of recovery reported biennially in the State of the Sound



Progress measured through indicators, for example:

**Recovery goal:
Native Species**

Indicators



Chinook salmon



Orcas



Pacific herring



Marine birds

**Partnership
has improved
information on
recovery
progress**



Progress measured through indicators, for example:

Recovery goal:
Native Species

Indicators



Chinook salmon



Orcas



Pacific herring



Marine birds

Partnership has improved information on recovery progress

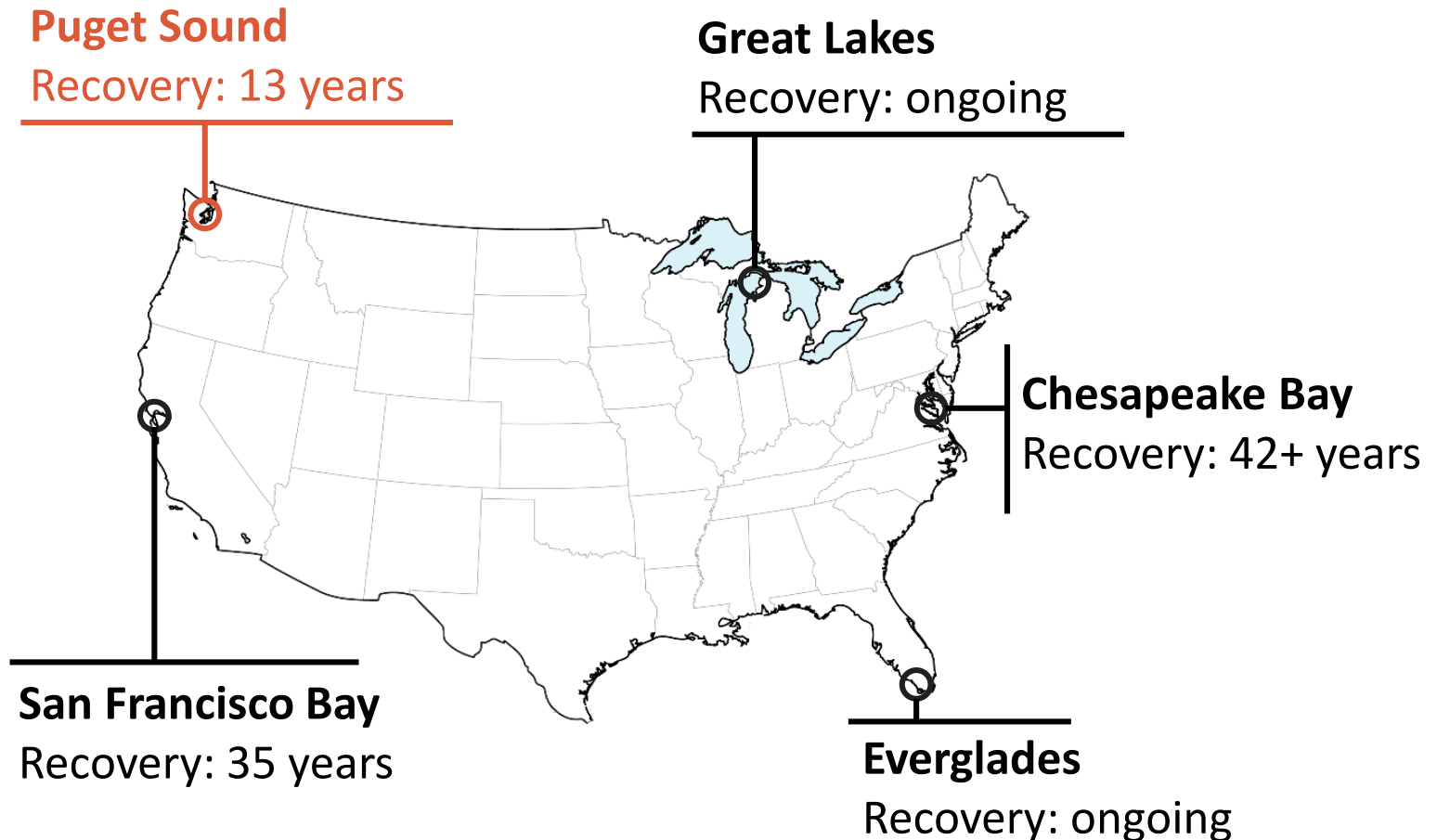


Puget Sound will not be recovered by 2020

37 indicators as of 2015

Status	# of indicators
Getting better	10
Not changing	6
Mixed results	4
Getting worse	5
No data	12

Statutory timeframe for recovery is comparatively short



Legislative Auditor Recommendation

1

The Partnership should identify and address revisions needed to planning and recovery timeframes.

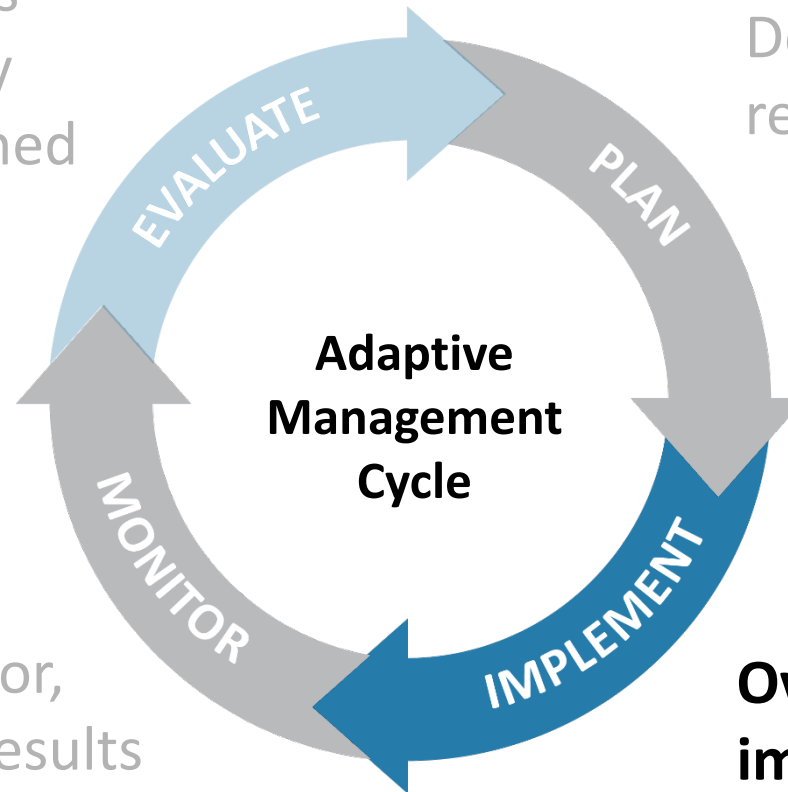
The Partnership should identify if legislation is needed.

- Partnership and OFM concur
- Planning revision implemented with SHB 1121

Plan – Implement – Monitor – Evaluate

Evaluate progress towards recovery and lessons learned

Develop regional recovery plan



Track, monitor, and report results

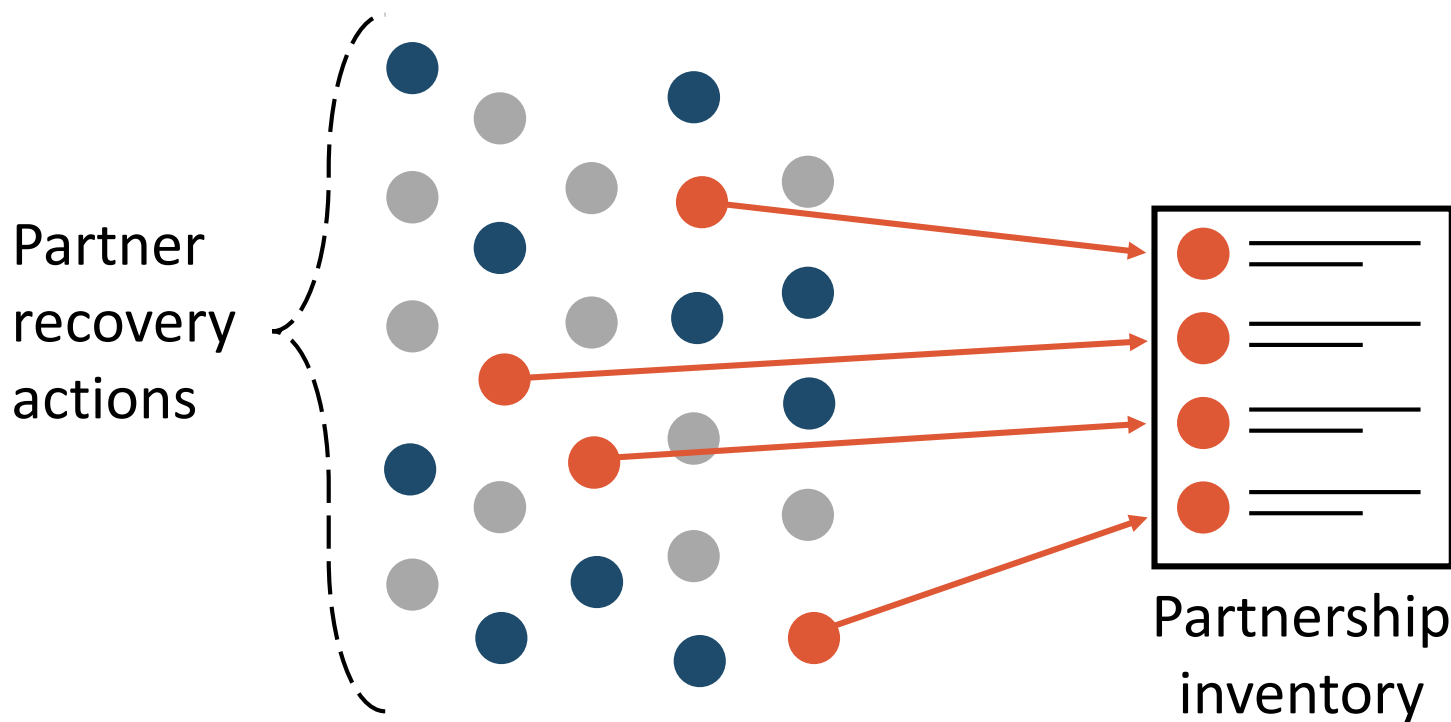
Oversee implementation and prioritize actions

Statute requires prioritization of recovery actions

There are 3 types of actions

- **Near term actions**
 - Discrete actions completed in 2-4 years.
 - 2016 Action Agenda first to prioritize them.
- **Ongoing programs**
 - Actions with no end date.
 - Some identified in the Action Agenda.
- **Other actions**
 - Actions that are not near term actions or ongoing programs.
 - No information about these in the Action Agenda.

Only some actions and funding inventoried



This limits ability to evaluate and prioritize full recovery effort

Legislative Auditor Recommendation 2

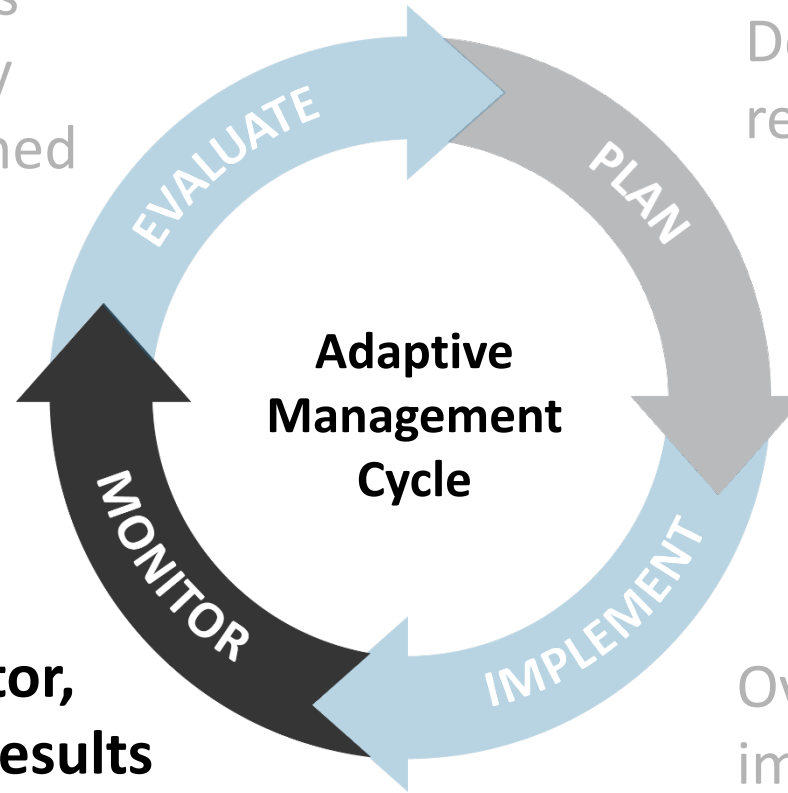
The Office of Financial Management and the Partnership should create a proposal for developing a more complete inventory of recovery actions and funding.

Partnership and OFM
concur

Plan – Implement – Monitor – Evaluate

Evaluate progress towards recovery and lessons learned

Develop regional recovery plan



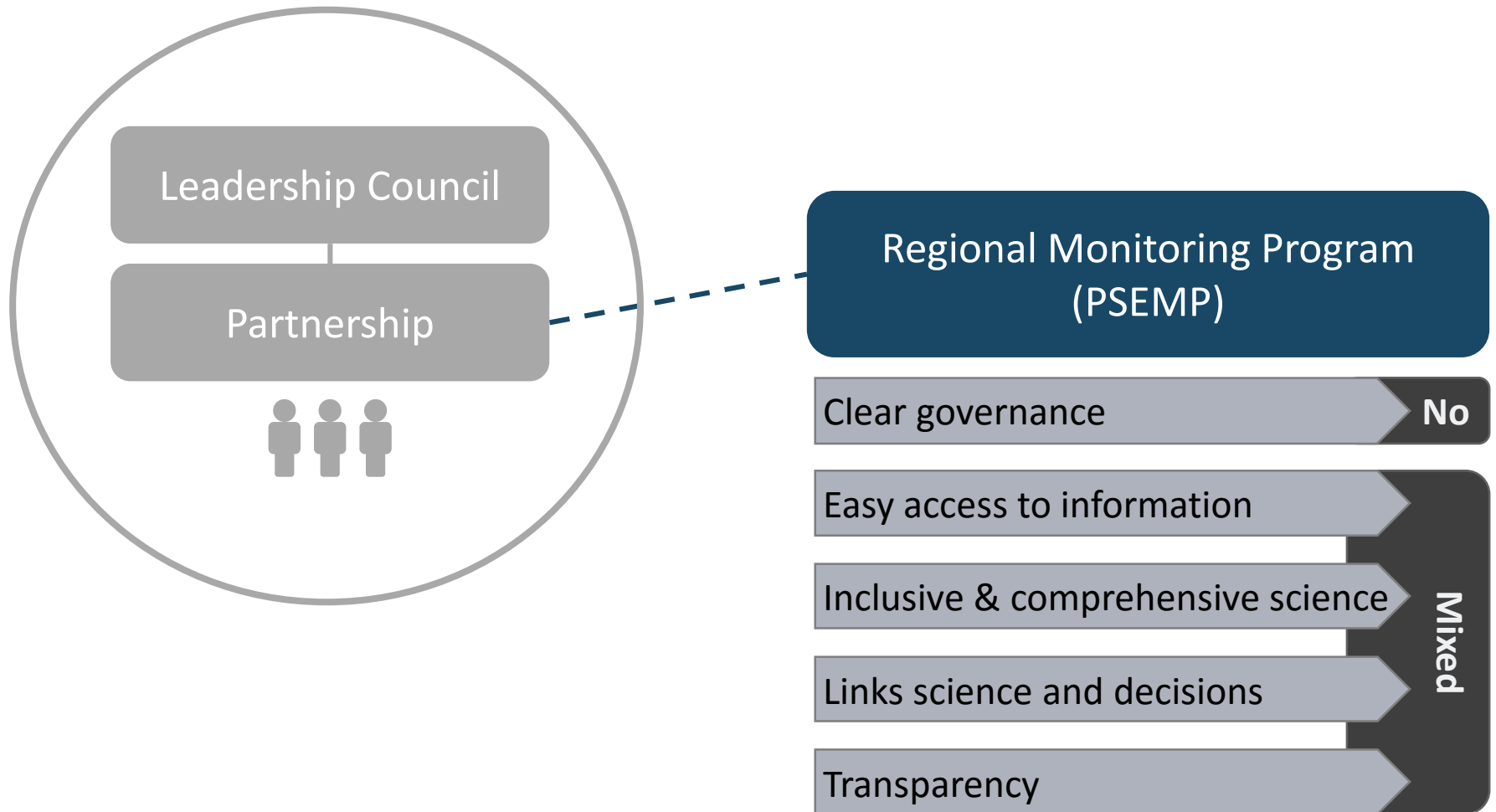
Track, monitor, and report results

Oversee implementation and prioritize actions

Monitoring program has begun to answer 3 questions

- 1. Were projects implemented as expected?**
- 2. Did they have the expected outcome?**
- 3. How is the condition of Puget Sound changing over time?**

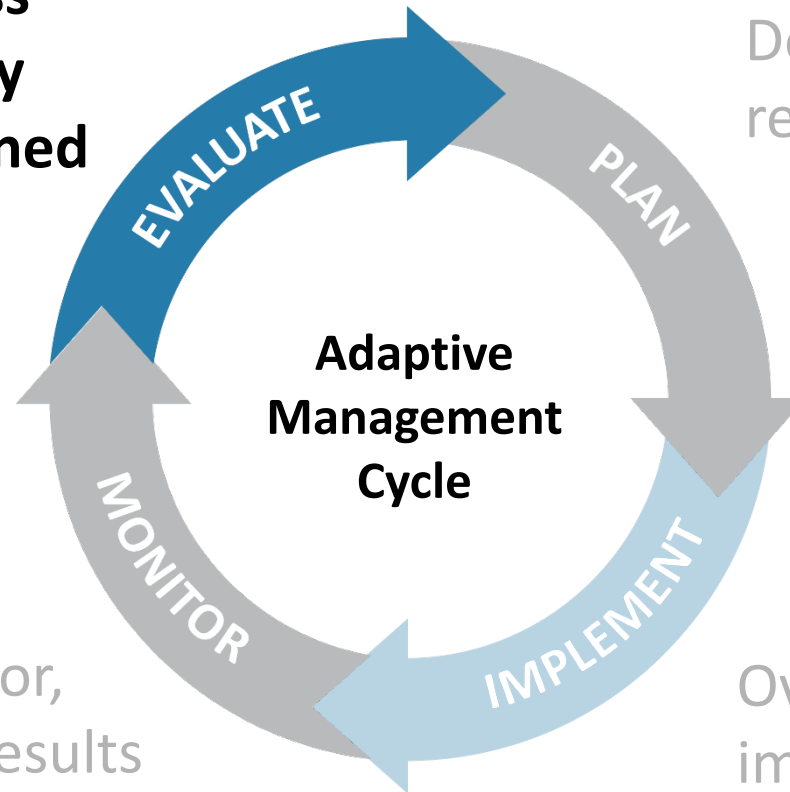
Program structure limits ability to answer the questions



Plan – Implement – Monitor – Evaluate

Evaluate progress towards recovery and lessons learned

Develop regional recovery plan

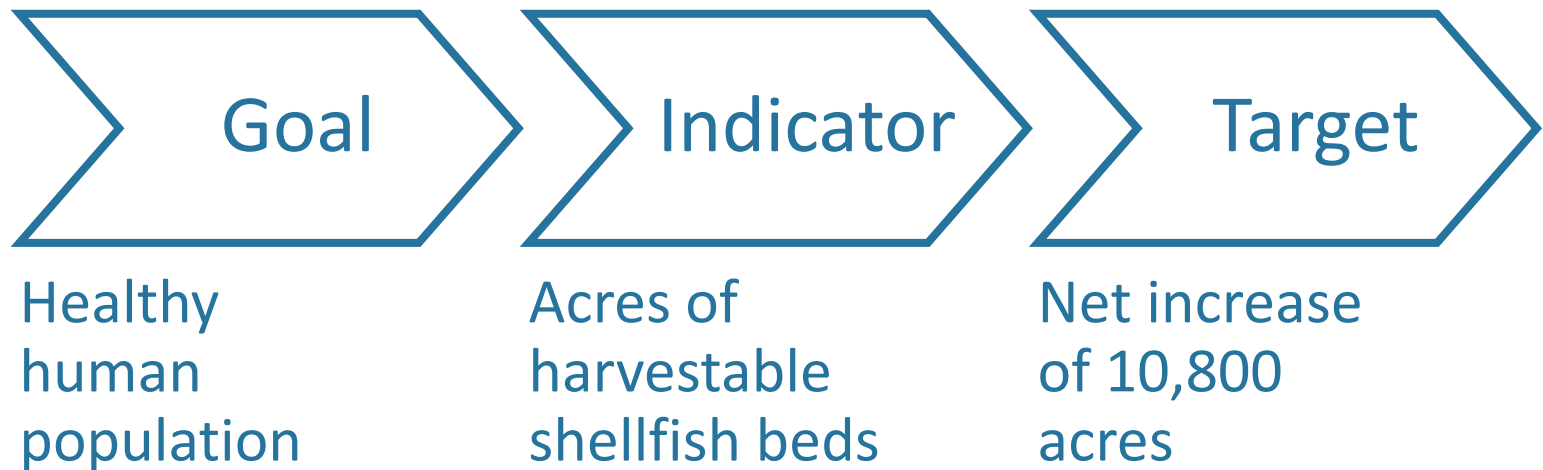


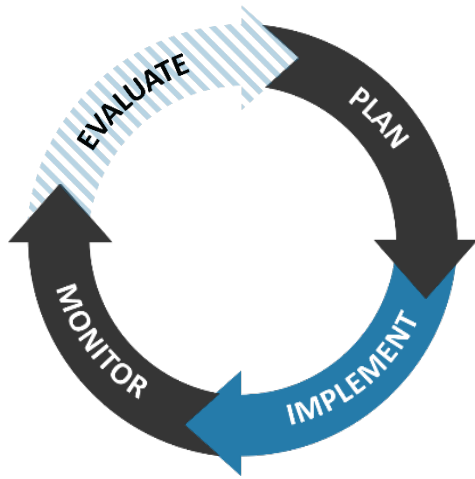
Track, monitor, and report results

Oversee implementation and prioritize actions

Partnership has started to link recovery goals to measurable targets

Example:





Lessons learned from monitoring may be difficult to incorporate into planning



Unknown what actions are needed to meet targets

- Partnership is piloting a new approach to make these connections, called implementation strategies.
- It is too soon for JLARC staff to evaluate their effectiveness.

Legislative Auditor Recommendation 3

The Partnership should:

- Address deficiencies in its ability to meet the essential requirements for a monitoring program, as identified by JLARC staff.
- Improve and clarify links between monitoring and planning.

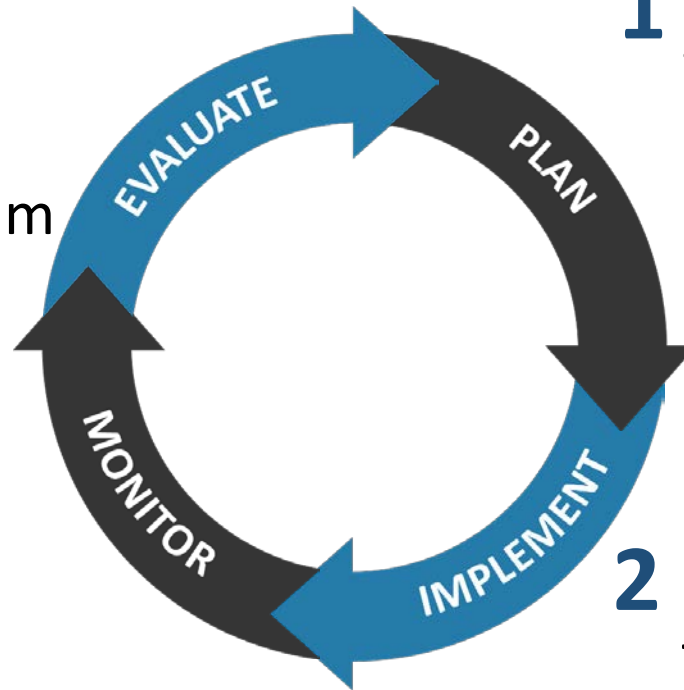
Partnership and OFM
concur

3 Legislative Auditor Recommendations

By December 2017, develop plans:

3 Partnership

To address monitoring program deficiencies and clarify links between monitoring and planning



1 Partnership

To address changes needed to the planning and recovery timeframes

2 OFM & Partnership

To propose how they will create a more complete inventory of actions and funding

Partnership and OFM concur



Proposed Final Report: Puget Sound Partnership

Full Report and Printable Overview available at:

<http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2017/PSPartnership2016/pf/default.htm>

Contacts:

Melanie Stidham
Research Analyst

melanie.stidham@leg.wa.gov
360-786-5190

Amanda Eadrick
Research Analyst

amanda.eadrick@leg.wa.gov
360-786-5174

John Woolley
Project Supervisor

john.woolley@leg.wa.gov
360-786-5184