

Shoreline Management Act (SMA)

Agency	Implemented by local governments; the Department of Ecology provides technical assistance
Year Established	1971
Relevant Statute	90.58 RCW; 173-26 WAC
Program Goal	To prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines; no net loss of shoreline ecological functions, protection of private property, and ecological restoration
Agency Summary	<p>The SMA applies to all marine shorelines, and larger lake, and stream shorelines and is implemented through local jurisdictions' Shoreline Master Programs (SMP), which are approved by the Department of Ecology.</p> <p>Any development taking place within shorelines covered under the SMA must comply with the local SMP. Ecology defines "development" as: construction or exterior alteration of structures; dredging; drilling; dumping; filling; removal of any sand, gravel, or minerals; bulkheading; driving or piling; placing of obstructions; or any project which interferes with the normal public use of the surface of waters overlaying lands subject to the SMA.</p>
Existing Outcome Measures	Monitoring shoreline conditions and evaluating outcomes is not required. Local governments may collect data and conduct evaluations.
Other benefits identified by agencies	<p>Community: recreation opportunities, public participation, scenic beauty</p> <p>Economy: enhancement of property value</p> <p>Environment: habitat protection, water quality</p> <p>Safety: development protection</p>