

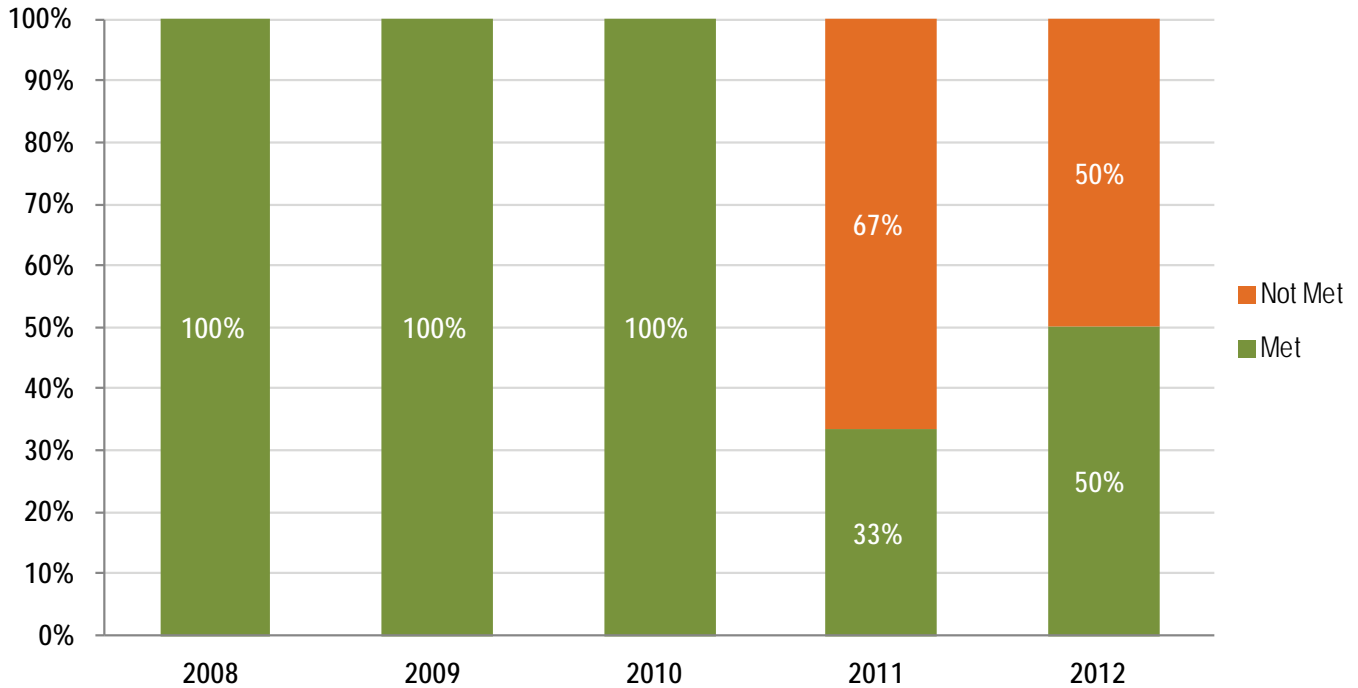
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Subobjective: Puget Sound

EPA met one of its two commitments for the Puget Sound subobjective in FY 2012 (Figure 87).

Figure 87: Puget Sound Subobjective Five-Year Trend



FY 2012 ACS Code	Abbreviated Measure Description	Results and Commitment Status						Appendix Page Number (D-0)/ Figure Number
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Subobjective 2.2.8 Restore and Protect the Puget Sound								
PS-SP49.N11	Number acres of Puget Sound shellfish areas improved (cumulative)		1,566	1,730	4,453	1,525	2,489	D-61/Fig.88
PS-SP51	Number acres of Puget Sound estuarine wetlands restored (cumulative)		4,413	5,751	10,062	14,629	23,818	D-61

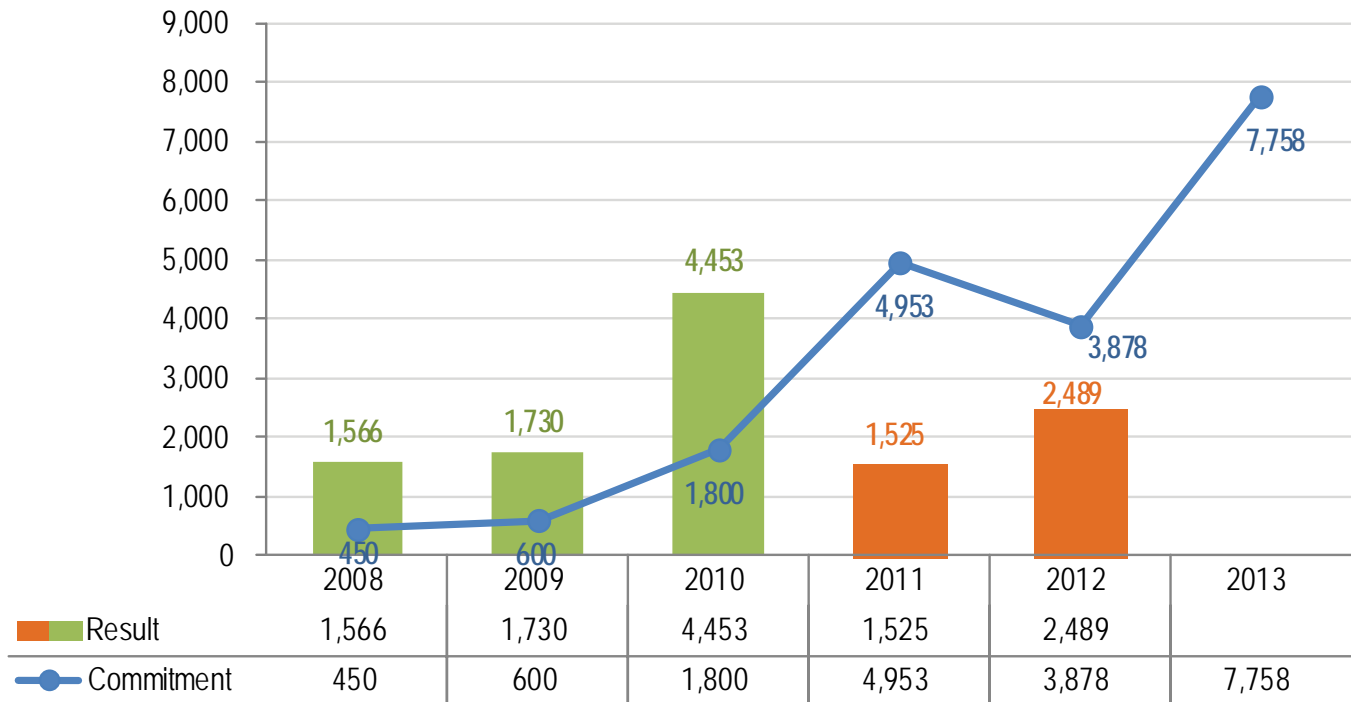
EPA's Puget Sound program works to ensure that the natural, cultural, and economic benefits of the Puget Sound ecosystem are protected and sustained, today and into the future. The Puget Sound ecosystem encompasses roughly 20 rivers and 2,800 square miles of sheltered inland waters that provide habitat to hundreds of species of marine mammals, fish, and sea birds. The waters in this basin also provide a significant source of seafood for both commercial and recreational harvesters.

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FY 2012 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

The Puget Sound program missed its annual commitment to improve water quality and lift harvest restrictions in 3,878 of shellfish bed growing areas. Efforts by federal, state, and local agencies in partnership with Puget Sound tribes have resulted in better water quality on 2,489 acres of commercial and recreational shellfish harvesting area since 2007 (Figure 88). In FY 2012, these efforts resulted in an upgrade of 964 acres. Notably, in FY 2012 there were no shellfish growing area classification downgrades.

Figure 88: Increased Acres of Puget Sound Shellfish Areas by Fiscal Year (PS-SP49.N11)

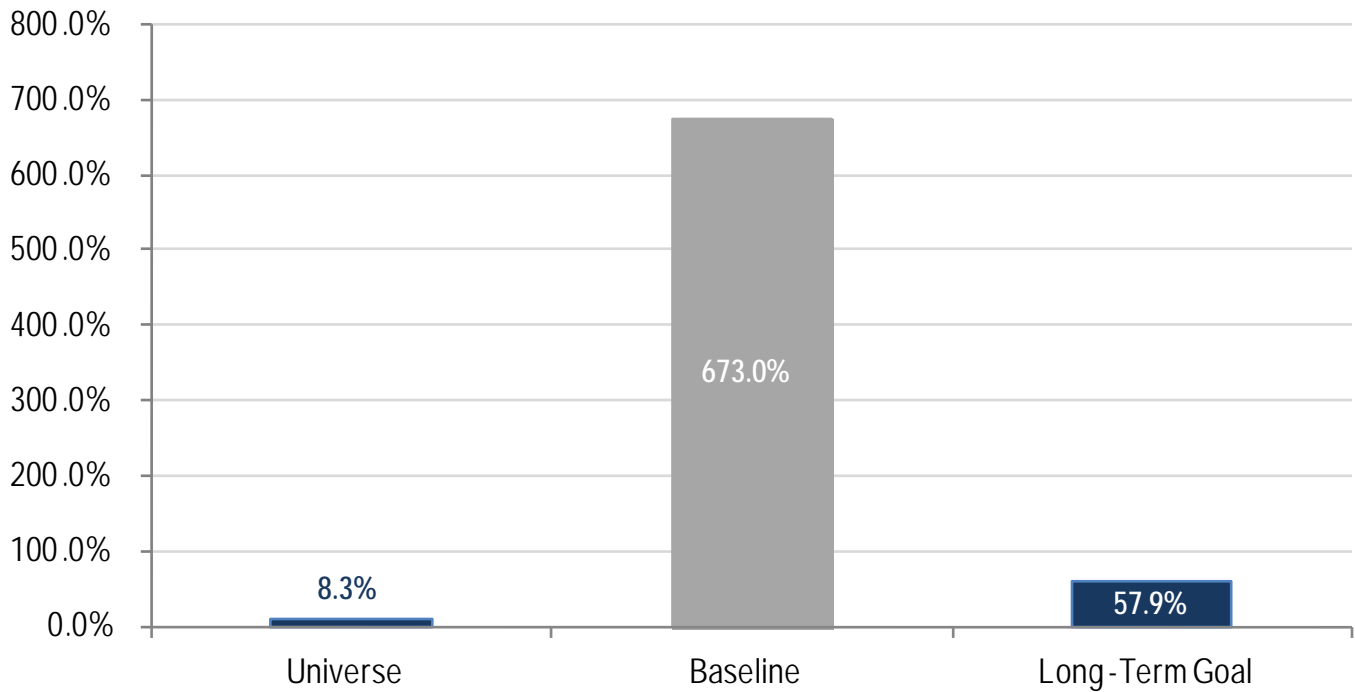


Maintaining water quality for approved shellfish harvesting is as important as obtaining upgrades for meeting the overall performance measure targets. Local projects aimed at onsite sewage system maintenance and repair, agricultural best management practice implementation, and wastewater treatment plant upgrades have helped maintain and upgrade shellfish growing areas. In particular, the program has expanded implementation of Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) programs to 10 of the 12 counties surrounding Puget Sound. The program is addressing pathogen pollution in the near term, focusing on specific geographical locations (e.g., Samish Bay), and in the long term for the universe of potentially recoverable shellfish acres basinwide in Puget Sound.

As of 2012, EPA and its partners have upgraded 8.3% of a total of 30,000 acres of shellfish beds impacted by degraded or declining water quality in the Puget Sound. This is a significant increase over the 2007 baseline of 322 acres (670%). The program has achieved approximately 58% of its FY 2015 goal of 4,300 acres of harvestable shellfish beds. With continued emphasis on pollution identification and correction, gains will be made in FY 2013 and FY 2014 that should enable the Puget Sound program to meet its five-year strategic plan goal by FY 2015 (Figure 89).

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Figure 89: Increased Acres of Puget Sound Shellfish Areas as a Percent of Universe, Baseline, and Long-Term Goal (PS-SP49.N11)



Close to 24,000 acres of tidally and seasonally influenced estuarine wetlands have been restored in the Puget Sound Basin since FY 2006 (SP-51). In FY 2012, the Puget Sound program tallied an annual increase of 9,218 acres, exceeding the annual increment needed to meet the cumulative target of 19,063 acres (Figure 90). In FY 2012 the Puget Sound program was able to report an additional 6,400 acres of restored habitat associated with the removal of the Elwha Dam. This included a diverse assemblage of riverine, riparian, estuarine, and nearshore habitats. For the habitat measure in FY 2013, EPA is expecting to be able to report an additional 6,500 acres in the Elwha River basin associated with completion of the Glines Dam removal, a second dam affecting a distinct reach of the river basin. In addition, EPA is also expecting a 400-acre delta restoration project in the Snohomish River basin to be implemented. These projects, in conjunction with a 1,500- to 2,000-acre cumulative result from the salmon recovery projects, should result in another 8,000 to 9,000 acres restored.

Figure 90: Restored Acres of Puget Sound Estuarine Wetlands by Fiscal Year (PS-SP51)

