RCW 77.85.230  Intertidal salmon enhancement plan—Elements—
Initial and final plan.  (1) In consultation with the appropriate task
force formed under RCW 77.85.220, the conservation commission may
contract with universities, private consultants, nonprofit groups, or
other entities to assist it in developing a plan incorporating the
following elements:

(a) An inventory of existing tide gates located on streams in the
   county. The inventory shall include location, age, type, and
   maintenance history of the tide gates and other factors as determined
   by the appropriate task force in consultation with the county and
diking and drainage districts;

(b) An assessment of the role of tide gates located on streams in
   the county; the role of intertidal fish habitat for various life
   stages of salmon; the quantity and characterization of intertidal fish
   habitat currently accessible to fish; the quantity and
   characterization of the present intertidal fish habitat created at the
   time the dikes and outlets were constructed; the quantity of potential
   intertidal fish habitat on public lands and alternatives to enhance
   this habitat; the effects of saltwater intrusion on agricultural land,
   including the effects of backfeeding of salt water through the
   underground drainage system; the role of tide gates in drainage
   systems, including relieving excess water from saturated soil and
   providing reservoir functions between tides; the effect of saturated
   soils on production of crops; the characteristics of properly
   functioning intertidal fish habitat; a map of agricultural lands
   designated by the county as having long-term commercial significance
   and the effect of that designation; and the economic impacts to
   existing land uses for various alternatives for tide gate alteration;
   and

(c) A long-term plan for intertidal salmon habitat enhancement to
   meet the goals of salmon recovery and protection of agricultural
   lands. The proposal shall consider all other means to achieve salmon
   recovery without converting farmland. The proposal shall include
   methods to increase fish passage and otherwise enhance intertidal
   habitat on public lands pursuant to subsection (2) of this section,
   voluntary methods to increase fish passage on private lands, a
   priority list of intertidal salmon enhancement projects, and
   recommendations for funding of high priority projects. The task force
   also may propose pilot projects that will be designed to test and
   measure the success of various proposed strategies.

(2) In conjunction with other public landowners and the
appropriate task force formed under RCW 77.85.220, the department
shall develop an initial salmon intertidal habitat enhancement plan
for public lands in the county. The initial plan shall include a list
of public properties in the intertidal zone that could be enhanced for
salmon, a description of how those properties could be altered to
support salmon, a description of costs and sources of funds to enhance
the property, and a strategy and schedule for prioritizing the
enhancement of public lands for intertidal salmon habitat. This
initial plan shall be submitted to the appropriate task force at least
six months before the deadline established in subsection (3) of this
section.

(3) The final intertidal salmon enhancement plan shall be
completed within two years from the date the task force is formed
under RCW 77.85.220 and funding has been secured. A final plan shall
be submitted by the appropriate task force to the lead entity for the
geographic area established under this chapter. [2009 c 333 § 24; 2003 c 391 § 5.]

Initiation of process—2003 c 391 §§ 4 and 5: See note following RCW 77.85.220.

Severability—Effective date—2003 c 391: See notes following RCW 77.57.030.