

Vessel Definition Amendment to SMP



Photo by John Skelton



Seattle Department of
Construction & Inspections

Planning, Land Use, and Zoning Committee

May 1, 2019 - 9:30AM

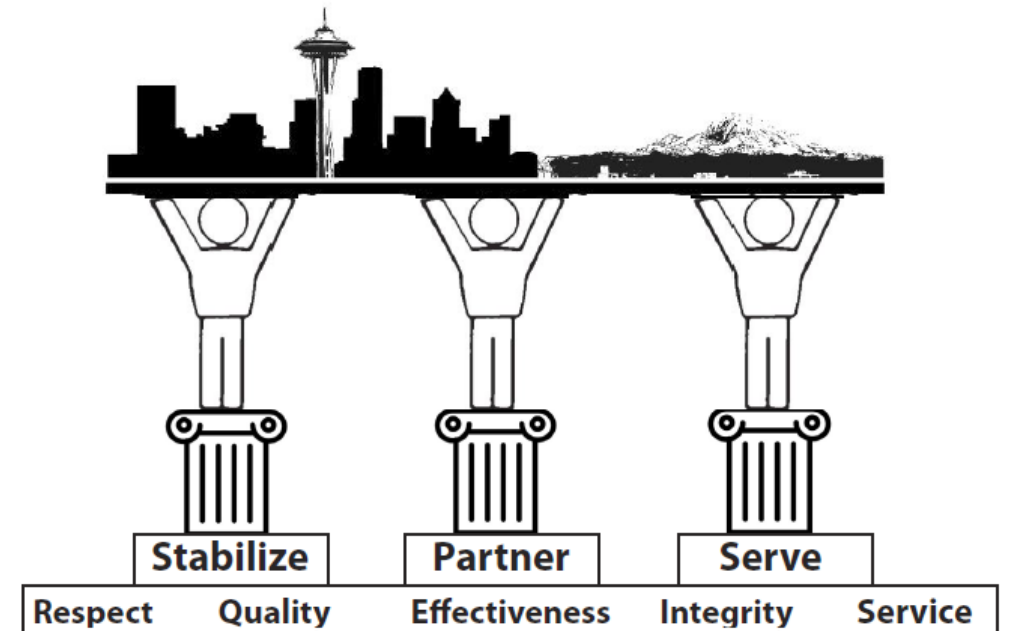
SDCI PURPOSE AND VALUES

Our Purpose

As stewards and regulators of land and buildings, we preserve and enhance equity, livability, safety, and health of our communities.

Our Values

- Respect
- Quality of work
- Equity
- Integrity
- Service



OVERVIEW

- Background on Shoreline Master Program (SMP)
- Purpose and Intent of the Amendment
- Update Process



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SEATTLE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM- BACKGROUND

- **1971** – State Shoreline Management Act
- **1972** – Seattle adopted first Shoreline Master Program (SMP)
- **2015** – Comprehensive Seattle SMP Update



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DEPT OF ECOLOGY SMP GUIDELINES

- Establishes the requirement for shoreline regulations;
- Establishes a balance of authority between local and state government;
- Cities and Counties are the primary regulators;
- Department of Ecology has authority to review local shoreline programs and permit decisions.



Photo by John Skelton



SEATTLE SHORELINE DISTRICT

- Water bodies including:
 - Puget Sound
 - Shilshole Bay
 - Elliott Bay
 - Duwamish River
 - Ship Canal/Lake Union
 - Lake Washington
 - Green Lake
- Lands extending 200-feet landward from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM)
- Associated floodplains, wetlands and river deltas

VESSEL DEFINITION AMENDMENT

Purpose and Intent

- Addresses unintended consequences of a 2016 Seattle Hearing Examiner’s decision that ruled that an existing conventional recreational vessel with a broken engine was not a vessel;
- Instead could be considered a “structure” and thereby be verified as a floating on-water residence; and
- Increase the consistency of the use of terms in the regulations.



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VESSEL DEFINITION AMENDMENT

Proposed Legislation

- Clarify the terms “designed for navigation” and “used for navigation” in the definition of vessel (SMC 23.60A.942);
- Replace “vessel” with “house barge” (SMC 23.60A.204); and
- Replace “vessel” with “structure” (SMC 23.60A.916).



Photo by Maggie Glowacki

SMP LIMITED AMENDMENT PROCESS

Joint Review with Department of Ecology (WAC [173-26-104](#) and WAC [173-26-110](#))

- **SDCI and Ecology**

- Joint 30 day comment period on proposed amendments
- Joint Public Hearing

- **SDCI**

- Reviews comments received
- Makes changes to the proposal, as needed
- Submits proposed amendment to Ecology



Photo by Maggie Glowacki

SMP LIMITED AMENDMENT PROCESS

Joint Review with Department of Ecology

(WAC [173-26-104](#) and WAC [173-26-110](#))

- **Ecology** - provides initial determination within 30 to 45 days
- **SDCI** – works with Ecology on any needed changes
- **Ecology** – provides written determination of consistency with applicable laws and rules
- **SDCI** - works with City Council to adopt the amendment as an ordinance and submits the ordinance to Ecology for final approval



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QUESTIONS?

SDCI Staff:

Margaret Glowacki

Ordinance documents available
on SDCI's [Shoreline Master
Program Website](#)



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