

SEATTLE WATERWAYS SAFETY STUDY

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AGENDA

Introductions

**Study Motivation and
Approach**

**Findings and
Recommendations**

Questions



STUDY MOTIVATION

- **Seattle waterways are shared by different user groups.** To ensure safety on the waterways, there is need for safety patrols, emergency response assets, and coordination of commercial, recreational, transportation, and residential activities.
- **Waterways safety supports Seattle as a maritime city.** The area has a significant maritime economy with Port of Seattle facilities, a grain terminal, international cargo terminals, public marinas, and cruise terminals.





STUDY APPROACH

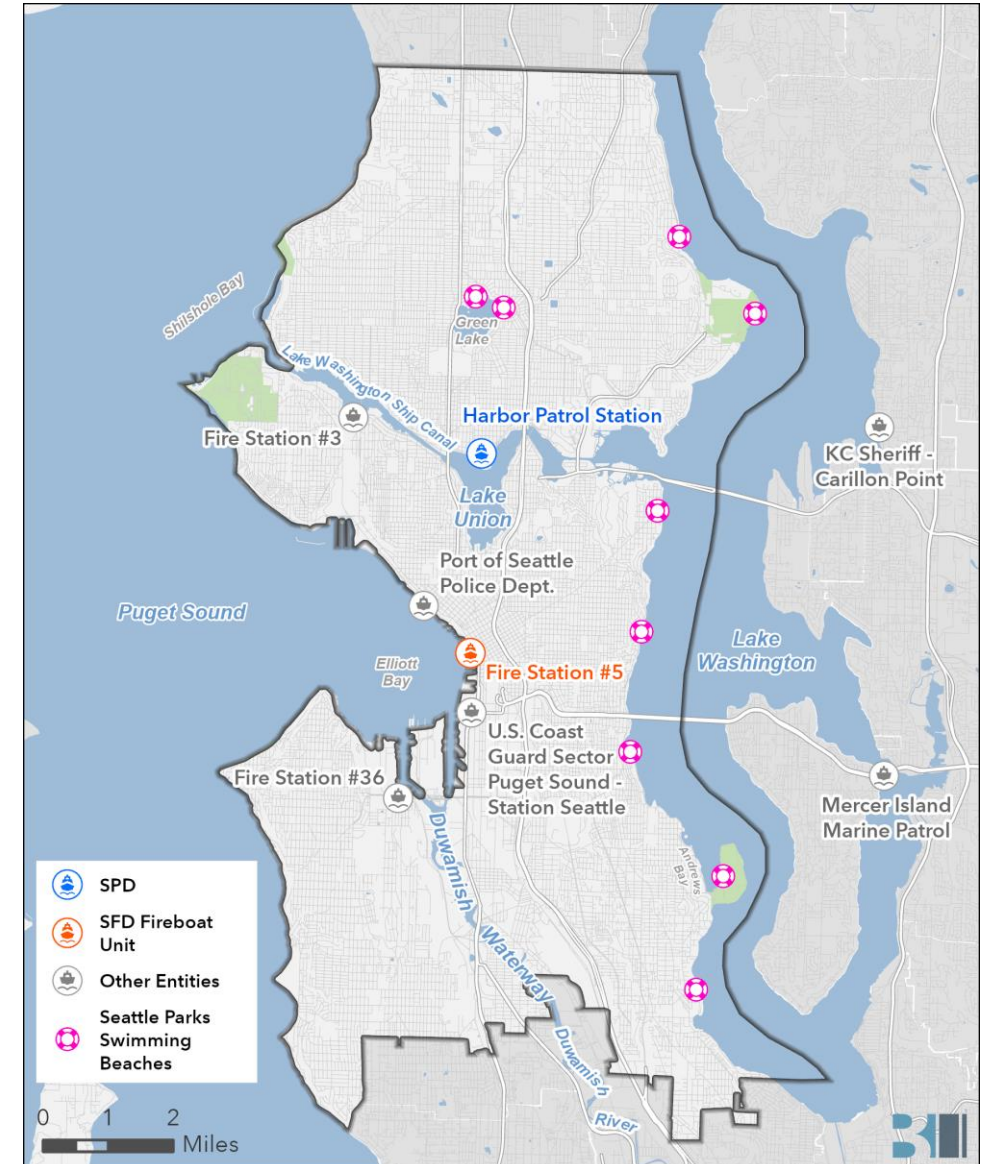
- **Workgroup** guidance from representatives in the Seattle Police Department (SPD), Seattle Fire Department (SFD), City of Seattle Finance & Administrative Services, Seattle Mayor's Office, and Seattle City Councilmember Dan Strauss's office.
- **Interviews** with local government, maritime industry, the residential community, and recreational organizations to learn about waterways safety needs.
- **Data analysis** on the volume of waterway activities and safety responses using data from various sources including SPD, SFD, and Seattle Parks and Recreation.
- **Peer city research** on marine safety operations in cities with similar waterway areas and safety needs.

Public agencies in the City with waterways responsibilities:

- Seattle Police Department Harbor Patrol
- Seattle Fire Department Marine Response Units
- Seattle Parks and Recreation

Public agencies outside the City with waterways responsibilities:

- King County Sheriff's Office Marine Rescue & Dive Unit
- Mercer Island Police Department Marine Patrol
- Port of Seattle
- Tribal Marine Police
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Washington State Parks
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources



FINDINGS



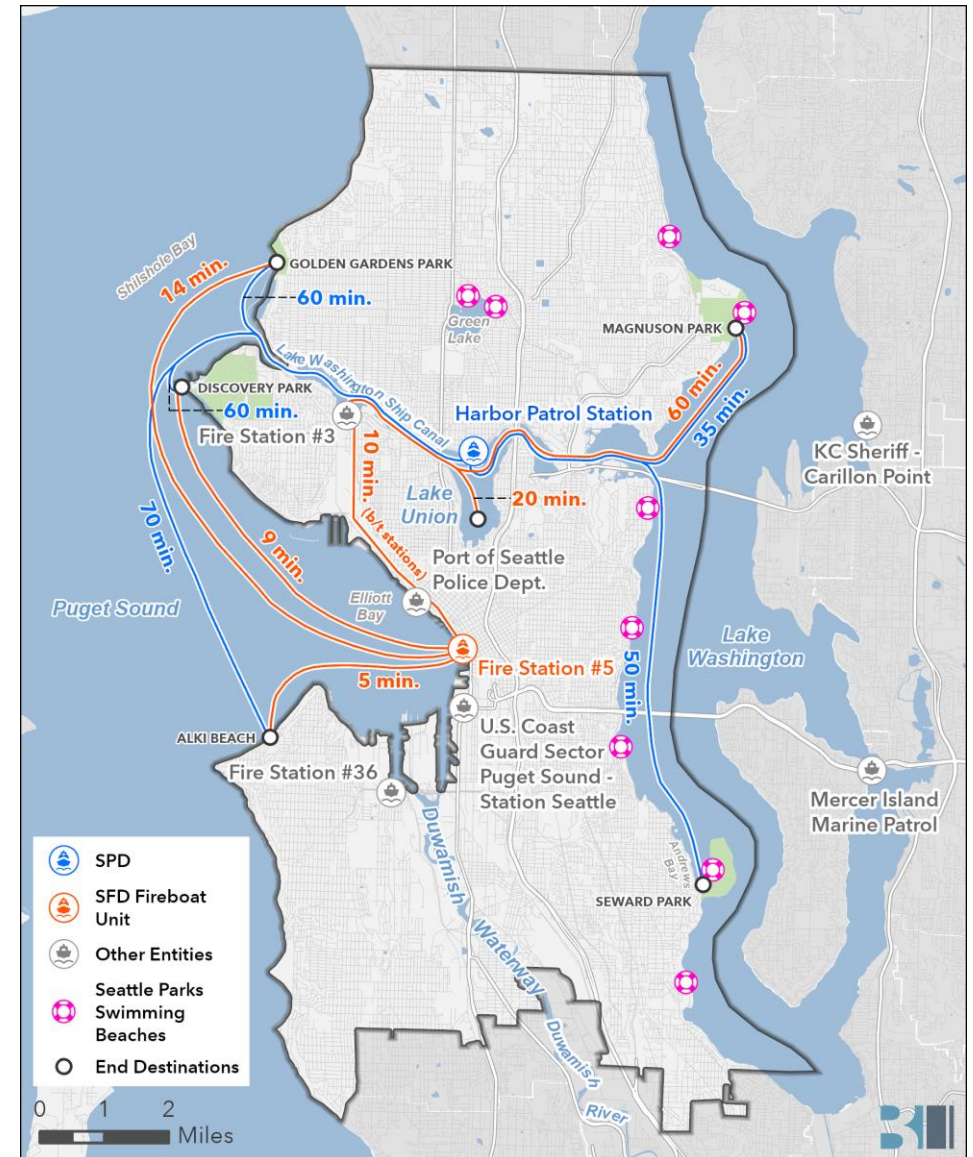
SEATTLE WATERWAYS ACCOMMODATE A VARIETY OF USES

- **There are more residents, visitors, and types of recreational activities around the waterways.** Growth in population, tourism, and new businesses offering rentals and other recreational services, particularly from human-powered or non-motorized vessels.
- **More safety education is needed for recreational users.** New or infrequent users may not be aware of regulations for waterways use, such as speed limits, rights-of-way, anchoring locations, and requirements for carrying safety equipment.



CURRENT RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PATROLS ARE LIMITED

- **Asset locations and staffing levels limit SPD and SFD response times.** Calls for service have returned to pre-pandemic levels, but Harbor Patrol staffing has decreased and SFD staffing has remained constant.
- **Property crime was identified as a problem that may benefit from more patrols.** Interviewees representing commercial, industrial, and residential users all described an uptick of theft from buildings, vessels, and docks.



OTHER FINDINGS

- **Current Harbor Patrol data does not provide a complete picture of need.** It is also difficult to establish a metric for recommended marine police unit staffing.
- **Derelict vessel response is a resource-intensive activity.** Can be difficult to find the derelict boat owner and penalties are not enough to encourage compliance, which leaves property owners and public agencies to step in.
- **SPD and SFD work effectively together on emergency response.** There is generally good cooperation between SPD and SFD during emergency response, but more formal procedures are needed.



RECOMMENDATIONS



AUGMENT EDUCATION FOR RECREATIONAL USERS

- Improve recreational boater education with signage and situational training modules.** Provide materials in multiple languages to lower cultural barriers.
- Partner with other organizations to conduct safety checks for recreational users.** Explore regular patrols by Seattle Park Rangers and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- Consider coverage by Park Rangers to support noise ordinance enforcement.** Park Rangers have the authority to cite individuals and may also achieve compliance by reminding users of City regulations.

Washington State
VESSEL INSPECTION

State/County/City Agency

Date _____ Time _____ Reason for Inspection or Contact
 Assist Courtesy Inspection Vio. Other:

Body of Water _____ Location
 On Water Ramp Other:

Operator
 Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____ Date of Birth _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone (____) _____

Owner
 Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____ Date of Birth _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone (____) _____

Vessel
 Registration & Decal Cont. #, or Documentation # _____ Hull I.D. # _____
 Name _____ Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Length _____
 HP _____ Color _____ Weight Capacity _____ OB IO Man # persons
 IN Sail Jet on board

YES	NO	N/A	REQUIRED	YES	NO	N/A	REQUIRED
			REG. NUMBERS Proper Display				LIGHTS Proper Display (Night Only)
			CURRENT DECAL Proper Display				DISTRESS SIGNALS Adequate
			CERT. OF NUMBERS on Board				FLAME ARRESTOR Adequate
			MANDATORY EDUCATION CARD				SOUND DEVICE Horn/Whistle/Bell
			MOTOR VESSEL CHECKLIST (Rentals)				VENTILATION / BLOWER Engine
			PFD USCG Approved & Correct Size				SKI FLAG Proper Display, Size
			PFD Adequate # & Condition				CARBON MON. DECAL (Gas only; no PWC)
			PFD Type IV (16' & Over)				PWC Lanyard Used
			PFD Worn by Child 12 & Under; < 19'				PWC Operator 14 & Older
			FIRE EXTING Approved/Charged				AQUATIC INV. SPECIES
			MUFFLER Adequate Condition				

Additional Comments:
SURVEY QUESTION: If boat is on water, are all persons on board wearing a lifejacket? Yes No

No Violation Warning Citation #

Officer Signature _____ RCW/WAC _____

Inspection form provided by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
 VESSEL INSPECTION P&R A-274 (02/2009) DISTRIBUTION: WHITE-Originating Agency; CANARY-State Parks; PINK-Boater

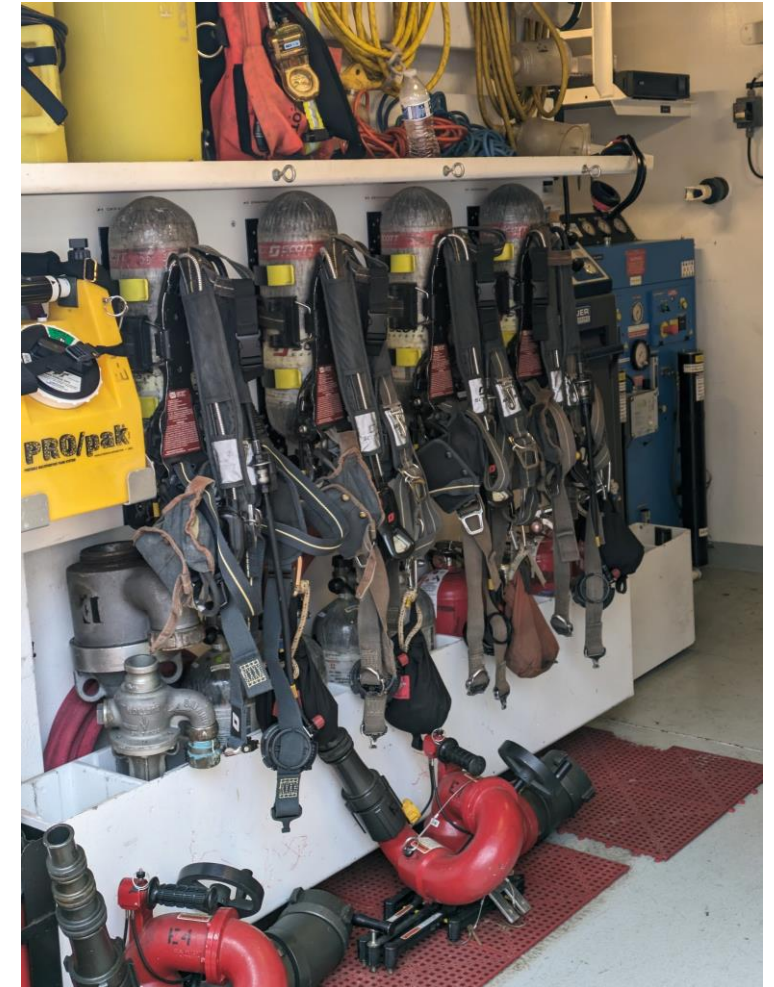
USE DATA TO INFORM DECISIONS ABOUT HARBOR PATROL STAFFING

- **Be transparent about the level of service Harbor Patrol can deliver.** Given hiring and budget constraints, Harbor Patrol and the City can continue to hold open discussions about emergent needs and ideas for how partners can provide support.
- **Maintain an online data dashboard for Harbor Patrol activity.** SPD could enrich the available public information on Harbor Patrol activity to enhance transparency and public awareness.
- **Use available call or incident data to understand the demand for Harbor Patrol services.** SPD is developing a new map draw to identify more specific Harbor Patrol “beat” areas to allow better tracking of patrol activity.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Support SFD's efforts to add a fire station in South Lake Union.** The station would be at the south end of the lake and respond to land and water emergencies.
- **Support tools to ensure proper disposal of derelict vessels by owners, which may reduce the need for public agencies to step in.** Raise awareness about the DNR Vessel Turn-In Program and lobby for stronger enforcement tools and additional state funding for derelict vessels.
- **Establish regular convenings between SPD and SFD to discuss incident response and strengthen agency working relationships.** Review existing memorandums of understanding to determine whether and how they should be updated, as well as a cadence for regular review going forward.



QUESTIONS

