

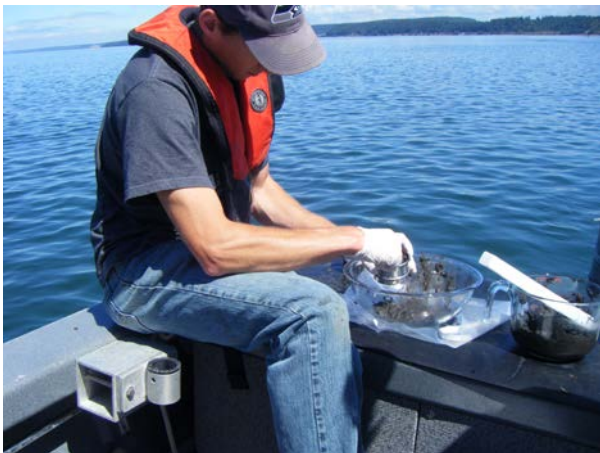


### What does the range of sediment contamination in the nearshore tell us about potential contamination in fish and mussels?



*A downrigger was used to take sediment samples.*

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) strategy is to provide a coordinated, integrated approach to quantifying the stormwater problem in Puget Sound and to help manage stormwater to reduce harm to the ecosystem. Based on recommendations from the SWG, Washington State's Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) includes a component to monitor the status and trends of contaminants in sediments in the marine nearshore of Puget Sound. Forty (40) marine nearshore sites that are adjacent to Puget Sound's Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) were selected for inclusion in the sediment monitoring study for the summer of 2016.



*AAMT scientists prepared samples for submittal to labs for processing of chemical contaminants.*

AAMT and the DNR Outfall Program coordinated with King County and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to complete the sampling conducted by field crews. Sediment samples are being analyzed for a range of chemicals. The contaminants to be assessed include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), and a range of chlorinated pesticides and metals.

The data gathered will be summarized across the Puget Sound ecoregion. It will be compared to other marine monitoring programs that focus on chemical contamination in the Puget Sound such fish, mussel and other sediment sampling efforts. Once the data is available, it will be analyzed with a goal of providing recommendations for future status and trends monitoring of nearshore sediments; to answer questions about stormwater management; and to potentially influence the NPDES permit process issued by Washington State Department of Ecology.