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It is crucial that the Shoreline Management Act works for the time that we are living in. This 50+ year old law has to address the dire environmental challenges we are facing.

As the sea level rises it must be taken into account: not just along the Washington coast and the Puget Sound, but along the entire length of every river that drains into them.
As much as 80% of estuary habitat in Washington State has been lost and much of what remains is threatened by rising ocean levels. We must allow shorelines and estuaries to naturally migrate inland as sea levels rise. To ensure their natural migration prohibiting new buildings and the repair or replacement of existing ones is the only realistic option. Restrict hard shoreline stabilization (like armoring) as a last resort, and then only allow it above the long-term future ordinary high-water mark. Expanding shoreline jurisdiction into adjoining flood plains and critical areas so that SMP rules can be applied beyond the standard 200 ft limit is absolutely necessary. Climate change has to be included in critical area standards and account for sea level rise and changing hydrology, including the landward migration of wetlands and critical saltwater habitats.

"No net loss" has been a fundamental principle in shoreline management since 2003 but is not working. Significant shoreline environmental function has been lost since then and losses continue today. Accounting for sea level rise must be included when evaluating and planning for no net loss requirements. All actions, authorized and unauthorized, need to be tracked: and include them in no net loss and in cumulative impact evaluations. Require that mitigation actually succeeds by measuring performance with annual reports submitted to the local government and transmitted to the Department of Ecology.

Enforcement has to be strengthened. For example, 85% of new shoreline armoring installed in Island County between 2016 and 2023 was unpermitted. Mandate enforcement by clearly specifying the exact circumstances under which a local government must enforce its SMP. Require the removal of any hard shoreline stabilization or structures built without approval. If it wasn't permitted it has to be removed; along with any remediation that needs to occur. Require performance and maintenance bonds for all environmental mitigation projects to ensure long-term accountability.