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The plans for the wet side of the reconfigured ASB are not clear. Understanding what you are going to build and the goals to gauge its success are critical. In particular, the "fish passage structure" is not described. In order to be worthwhile, the connection between the new basin and Bellingham Bay must do many things to truly benefit fish and the ecosystem that supports them. I recommend that the designers use WDFW's 2013 Water Crossing Design Guidelines, Appendix D: Tidally Influenced Crossings, p. 244. This appendix is a comprehensive approach to sizing tidally influenced openings for fish passage and habitat enhancement.

As a general comment, rarely are "commercial uses" and habitat compatible.