



# Supporting the Community Voice

## Public Health assessed the CHAs' involvement in the Community Steering Committee (CSC) and found:

- Most CHAs think the CSC is doing a good job of involving members. Most CSC members:
  - Are clear on the vision of the CSC ,
  - Feel the committee has met its goals
  - are satisfied with the meeting structure and their influence in the CSC.
- Representatives from each CHA team served on the selection committee to select a community partner to lead the Youth/School-based strategy.



The Program was selected to present at the National Environmental Health Association educational conference in Spokane, WA.



The GAL team organized and facilitated the July CSC at the Rainier Beach Urban Farms and Wetlands, focusing on a review IC strategies, the risk cup game, and celebrating recently trained CHAs.

3 Community Steering Committee

1342 CHA hours spent informing agency decision-

3 DESC Meetings

"Each team lead their own CSC and the teams build capacity that way, which is very helpful."  
--CSC team member

Public Health also convened a Duwamish Evaluation Steering Committee (DESC) of CHAs who were identified by their teammates. The DESC consists of 9 members between CHAs, Public Health and EPA, and are planning to contract with an evaluation consultant in the



GAL CHA presenting at boat tour hosted by LDWG.



The CSC in April hosted by the VN CHAs consisted of a walking tour focus group with the Port of Seattle to identify advisory sign placement along popular fishing sites.

# ANNUAL PROGRAM FACT SHEET

2022

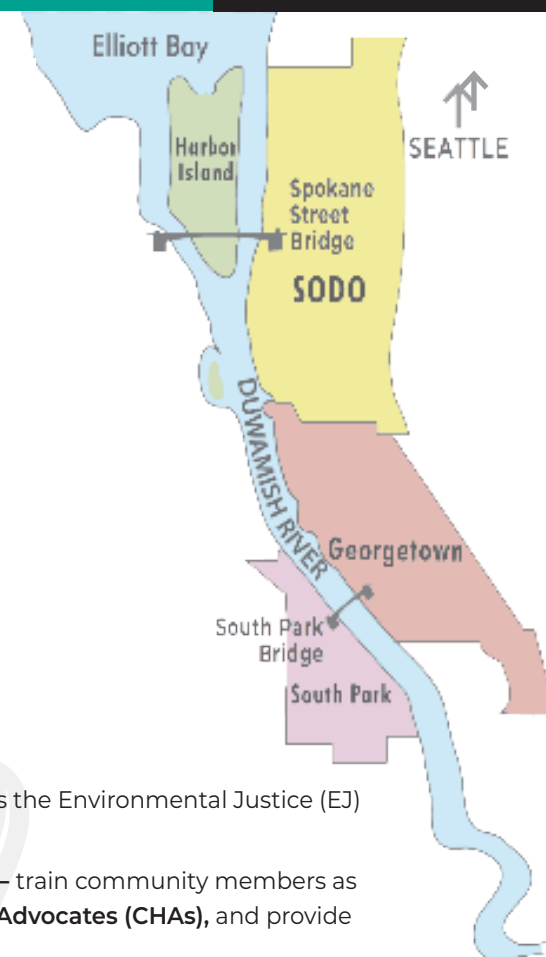
**FUN TO CATCH TOXIC TO EAT**

THE ONLY DUWAMISH SEAFOOD SAFE TO EAT IS SALMON

Loại hải sản an toàn nhất để ăn từ sông Duwamish là cá hồi

El único pescado del río Duwamish que es seguro para comer es el salmón

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## Program Overview

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Fun to Catch, Toxic to Eat Program for the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Superfund Site uses innovative community-based approaches to promote safe seafood consumption. The goal is to promote culturally appropriate healthy actions that protect the health and wellbeing of fishing communities, especially pregnant women, nursing moms and young children, from the contaminated seafood in the LDW Superfund Site throughout the cleanup.

Pollution disproportionately impacts immigrant and refugee fishing communities. The health warning signs have not been effective in reaching fishers with limited English proficiency. Many fishers come from South/West Seattle and South King County.

Public Health - Seattle & King County (Public Health) leads this program on behalf of the EPA. Launched in 2017, this program focuses on developing the EPA's Institutional Controls (IC) for safe seafood consumption as part of the LDW Superfund Cleanup plan.

This program reflects the Environmental Justice (EJ) principles of:

- **Capacity Building** – train community members as **Community Health Advocates (CHAs)**, and provide community grants.
- **Meaningful Involvement** – design tools and plans with community input.
- **Empowerment** – support the community's voice in decision-making.

In 2022, Public Health began a new 7-year Cooperative Agreement with EPA to continue implementation of the Fun to Catch, Toxic to Eat Program. The Lao American Resource Center became a program partner to support the newest CHA team representing fishing communities from different ethnic groups from Laos. ECOSS was selected as the organization to lead the development of the Youth/school-based strategy. Public Health collaborated with all other CHA groups to provide training and capacity building for the new team members and partners. The introduction of new teams has brought new and reinvigorating energy to all the CHA groups.

## In 2022, Public Health Partnered with:



### PROGRAM CONTACTS

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## Community Informs All Stages

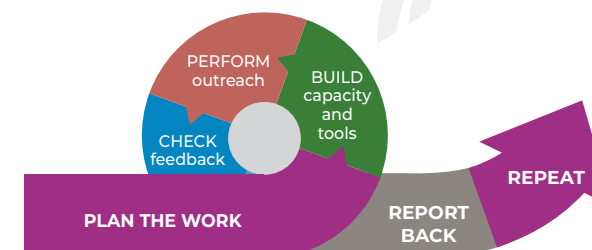


PHOTO CREDITS: Public Health



Team activity building tiny homes with Sound Foundations and the Low Income





# Building community capacity

Public Health staff continued to provide training and technical assistance to the CHA teams and community partners based on their needs. With the forming of the newest CHA team hosted by LARC, program staff and partners collaborated to provide many capacity

## Evaluation

CHAs are gaining knowledge, skills, and comfort with conducting outreach, creating new partnerships in the community and facilitating meetings.



GAL CHAs asking questions at an educational workshop with multiple agencies working on the cleanup of the Duwamish River.

“Bringing in the Lao community offers hopes of reaching more communities.”  
— Khmer CHA

1081 CHA hours

spent on team building and continued training with Team Leads and Public Health.



Public Health supported the LARC team to provide the curriculum training and certified 7 new CHAs.



Public Health and CHA team leads partnered with ECOSS to provide the curriculum training.

“Before I could never approach anyone, but now I have the confidence. My team members and my leader give me that confidence that I can approach people. I am learning a lot.” -- GAL CHA



# Raising community awareness

“Our families need outreach to let people know and understand the current pollution at the Duwamish River. We love the Duwamish River because we have been fishing and harvesting seafood from this region for many years.” – Khmer CHA



LARC team tabling at the Southeast Asian and Pacific Islanders resource fair.

86 outreach activities

at homes, fishing piers, community kitchens, farms, festivals, and health fairs

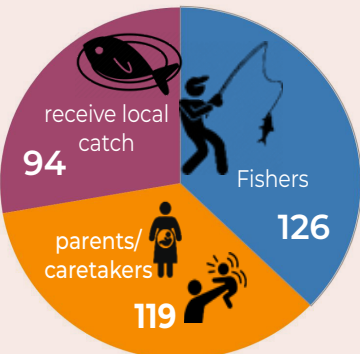
916

community members reached

1887 CHA hours

spent planning and conducting outreach

Of the 53 events where demographic information was collected, CHAs engaged:



“Because We were able to provide this information, some people are making better choices when they go buy seafood.... People are more cautious about before they buy knowing where it came from “ — CORE team member



Educational workshop collaboration with the Green Jobs Coalition and ECOSS.



# Designing IC strategies and tools with community

Public Health worked with the CHAs to refine the Duwamish Fishing Club and the Mom's Workshops strategies after the first year of pilot-testing and created more streamlined evaluation tools and workshop plans. These strategies help promote healthy fishing at alternative sites, fishing only salmon in the Duwamish River, and making healthy seafood choices for consumption and preparation. Each workgroup designed the plans to outline the structure of the workshops to meet the objectives of each strategy, as well as the evaluation, education, and outreach tools.

## Duwamish Fishing Club

The Duwamish Fishing Club reached 12 fishers and expanded the strategy to include workshops at a variety of alternative sites from Lake Washington, Ocean Shores and Shilshole. Additionally, there were two culminating salmon fishing competition held in September and October.



The annual Duwamish Fishing Club salmon competition at the Spokane Street Bridge in September.

## Moms' Workgroup

The VN, Khmer, and GAL teams hosted a total of 8 workshops reaching more than 37 moms and caregivers of young children.



GAL team Mom's group holding their incentives after successfully completing the mom's series.



Moms' workshop led by the Khmer CHAs at Mt. Baker Village.

662 CHA hours

on collaborating with Public Health and other partners on developing tools and implementing IC strategies.



DUWAMISH FISHING CLUB



The two winners of the fishing competitions of 2022.



VN Fishers learning about fishing tools and techniques.

## Evaluation Findings:

Most moms/caregivers and fishers eat fish or shellfish caught by someone they know 1-6 meals a month.

After the first workshop, more than 90% of moms correctly answered most of the quiz questions about safe seafood consumption and contamination in the Duwamish river.

The average score for all knowledge quiz questions improved for fishers after their workshops.

100% of Fishing Club participants committed to fish for salmon only from the Duwamish River and to share the program message with other fishers.



VN team Mom's group learning how to make pickled bamboo salmon hotpot dish.