



# Supporting the Community Voice

Public Health and CHAs took part in 10 stakeholder engagements with other government, educational and community partners, this included presenting at local conferences, national webinars, and universities.

**185** CHA hours spent informing agency decision-makers

**3** Community Steering Committee Meetings



CHAs presented and hosted breakout sessions on their IC Plan policy recommendations at the Healthy Seafood Consumption Consortium.



CHAs presented on the program to a graduate seminar at the University of Washington.

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

- The CSC provides an effective structure to gather input from a multilingual group of CHAs and to collectively develop community-centered strategies to promote safe seafood consumption practices.
- Representation from all CHA teams at the CSC facilitates a collaborative process to develop strategies that are culturally appropriate across multiple ethnic and language groups.
- CSC members value and greatly benefit from having a designated space for meaningful engagement with EPA partners.

"... all the teams have made it a space where everyone is able to share their ideas and their feedback, and I feel that everyone has always been very respectful of whatever comments we have."  
—CSC member

"We feel that our ideas have been heard by the EPA and respected by EPA and Public Health."  
—CSC member

The CSC (hosted at King County Housing Authority facilities) nominated 3 CHA representatives for the Fisher Caucus of EPA's Roundtable.

# ANNUAL PROGRAM FACT SHEET

# 2019

## 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 salmon  
 មានតែត្រីសាលម៉ុនមួយគត់ដែលមានសុវត្ថិភាពសម្រាប់បរិភោគពីស្ទឹងឌូវ៉ាមីស្ទូ



### Program Overview

The US 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 2019, Public Health partnered with Refugee Federation Service Center (RFSC) and Latino Community Fund (LCF) to continue the collaboration with Community Health Advocates (CHA) from the Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Latino fishing communities. The CHAs strengthened their partnerships with each other and agencies in Public Health's Community Steering Committee to finalize the EPA's IC Implementation and Assurance Plan. They also advanced in designing educational tools and promoting the program health messages through finding new avenues and partnerships for their community engagement activities.

### In 2019, Public Health Partnered with:



#### PROGRAM CONTACTS



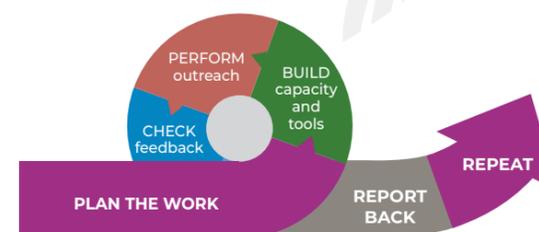
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[www.kingcounty.gov/duwamish-fishing](http://www.kingcounty.gov/duwamish-fishing)



### Community Informs All Stages



Luz Maria, Emma and Binh presented at the first annual Salish Sea Equity & Justice Symposium.

PHOTO CREDITS: Public Health & EPA



# Building community capacity

## New Partnerships

 Latino CHAs (Grupo Asesor Latino/GAL) participated in Public Health's Request for Application process to review and interview community-based organization (CBO) applicants. Together, they selected Latino Community Fund as the host CBO to partner with their team.



 Khmer CHAs partnered with Refugee Federation Service Center as a host CBO.

 Public Health directly contracted with the Vietnamese CHAs until they located a host CBO.



Continued training and knowledge sharing at Vietnamese team meetings.

*"All of the processes, they [Public Health] have always included us in the process, they make us feel important, we are united, and it's always been that way—they ask us to be part of everything, every step, we are making history, since it's not seen elsewhere."*

*Normally, a decision is made in an office and that is it, but not here."*



## 384 CHA hours

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

Public Health staff continued to provide training and technical assistance to the CHA teams and CBO partners based on their needs

### Evaluation Findings:

-  CHAs continued to report high levels of confidence, skills, and empowerment.
-  CHA's describe that the process of conducting outreach improves their knowledge, confidence and skills, while empowering themselves and others.

*"[Conducting outreach] improved my on-the-spot thinking, because people's questions can vary, and critical thinking was definitely [part of our training]. Making the conversation interesting for people to tune in."*  
— Vietnamese CHA

*"The more people that I see, I get very motivated. I start thinking of what I'm going to say... The more people I talk to, the more comfortable I feel."*  
— GAL CHA



End of year celebration through dancing and fun team-building.



# Raising community awareness



CHAs teamed up with Public Health and EPA at the 13th annual Duwamish River Festival.

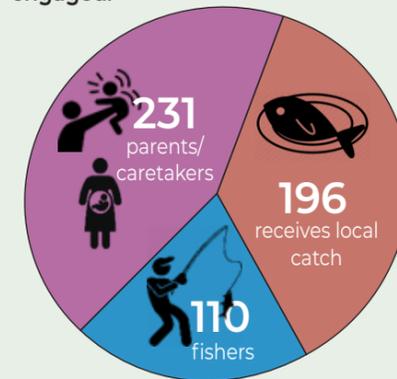
*"We show that it's all the three groups [are] working together."*

—Khmer CHA



All 3 CHA teams collaborated with local artist, Sarah Kavage and Theary Ngeth to provide salmon prep education and cuisine art demos at the Healthy Tukwila event.

Of the 33 events where demographic information was collected, CHAs engaged:

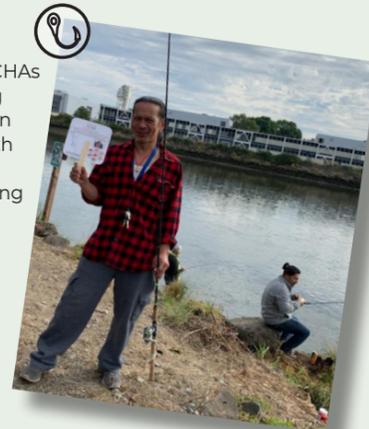


-  CHAs value opportunities to work together across teams to conduct outreach and develop strategies for community engagement.
-  Continued and expanded communication with EPA and agency partners will support CHAs ability to conduct meaningful outreach and answer community members' questions about the timeline for the LDW cleanup.

**34 outreach activities** at homes, piers, community kitchens, farms, festivals and health fairs

**653 community members reached**

**333 CHA hours** spent planning and conducting outreach



Khmer CHAs reaching fishers on LDW with health messaging tools.



# Designing tools with community input

Public Health worked with the CHAs to design new and updated multi-lingual tools. These tools promote catching and eating only salmon from the Duwamish River and finding alternative fishing sites with safe seafood to eat in King County. The CHAs helped to design layouts, develop content, recruit for pilot-testing, translate materials and star in the videos.

**85 CHA hours**

on collaborating with Public Health and other partners on developing tools

## Draft Youth Activity Coloring Book

CHAs and their kids began drafting the components of a coloring book with EPA, Public Health, and a local illustrator Purple Gate Design.



## "Healthy Fishing on the Duwamish: Let's Catch Salmon" videos

Public Health and the CHAs continued to partner with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife and UW Superfund Research Program to finalize this educational "how-to" video series. The CHAs produced additional health messages, footage, dubbing voiceovers and translations for the videos. As a group, they provided title options and voted on the final selection.



## Duwamish Waterway Consumption Advisory card

CHAs revived this advisory as an educational tool and provided translations for each of their target audiences.

