

# PORTLAND HARBOR

## Natural Resource Trustee Council



# Portland Harbor: From Cleanup to Restoration

## Site Background

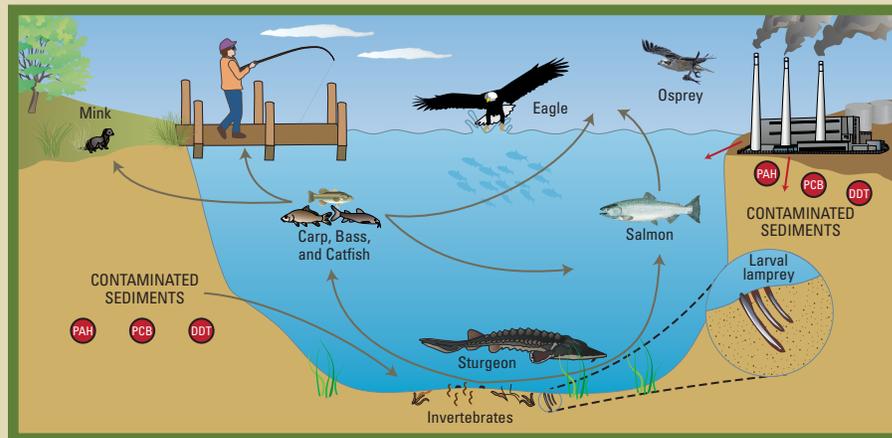
For over a century, industries and public entities in Portland, Oregon, have released dozens of harmful contaminants into the Willamette River and onto the land around it. In 2000, a 10-mile stretch of the river, just downstream from downtown Portland, was declared a Superfund site because the amount of pollution in the river is a threat to human and ecosystem health.

Public health officials have issued warnings to caution people about eating certain fish caught in Portland Harbor because of dangerous levels of contaminants in their tissues. Even small amounts of certain contaminants can be hazardous to fish and wildlife. Some of the chemicals of greatest concern in Portland Harbor (such as PCBs, DDT, PAHs, and others) can increase the risk of cancer in humans, impact the ability of bald eagles to reproduce, or impair the growth of salmon. To reduce these risks federal, state and tribal governments are working together on the cleanup and restoration of Portland Harbor.

## Portland Harbor Superfund Study Area



## Potential Methods of Exposure to Contaminants in Portland Harbor



\*This graphic does not depict all of the exposure pathways or all of the potentially injured resources in Portland Harbor.

The Environmental Protection Agency and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality are focused on cleaning up hazardous substances in the river and on the land around it.

The cleanup is vitally important, but it doesn't address everything. It does not fully restore natural resources or compensate the public for their lost use of those resources in the past. That is the purpose of restoration. The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council is leading the restoration in Portland Harbor.

### PCBs

- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Banned in the US since 1979

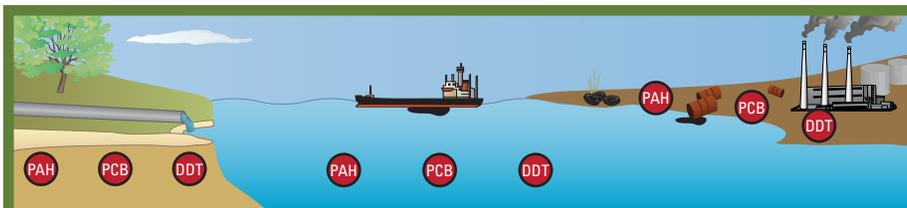
### DDT

- Pesticide
- Banned in the US since 1972

### PAHs

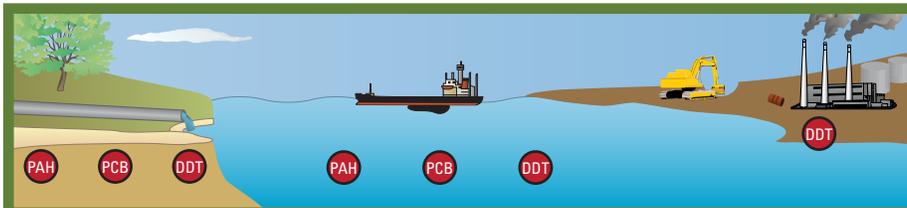
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Come from petroleum products

## Stages of Cleanup and Restoration at Portland Harbor



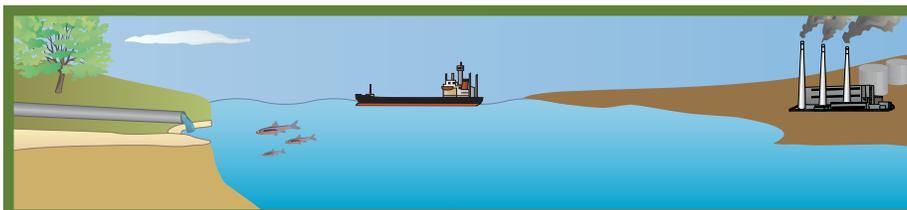
### Contaminated Site

Portland Harbor is contaminated by PCBs, DDT, PAHs, and other pollutants. A proposed clean-up plan for Portland Harbor is expected in 2014.



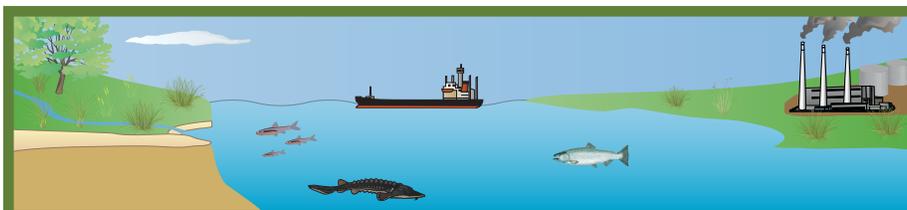
### Cleanup

The cleanup will focus on addressing risks from hazardous substances in the river. It will ensure that ecological and health risks are managed to prevent future impacts.



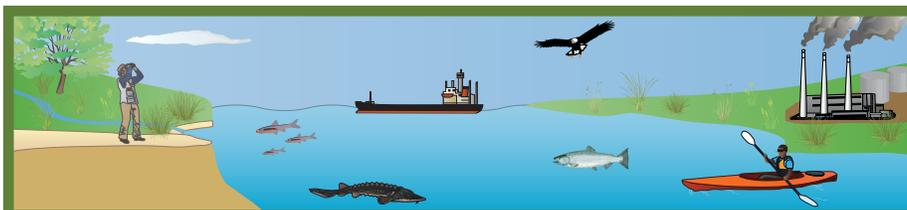
### Site After Cleanup

The cleanup will not restore natural resources or compensate the public for its inability to use those natural resources in the past. That's the purpose of restoration.



### Ecological Restoration

Ecological restoration will restore and replace natural resources such as salmon, lamprey, sturgeon, bald eagle, mink, and the habitats that support these creatures.



### Restored Services

Restoration will also focus on services that were impacted by long-term contamination in Portland Harbor, such as swimming, boating, wildlife viewing, and fishing.

## For More Information

There are many ways that you can stay informed and engaged with the cleanup and restoration of the Portland Harbor Superfund site. For more information, check out these websites:

- **Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council website:** <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Contaminants/PortlandHarbor/>
- **Environmental Protection Agency's Portland Harbor website:** <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/ptldharbor>
- **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Portland Harbor website:** <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/cu/nwr/PortlandHarbor/>
- **Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group website:** <http://www.portlandharborcag.info/>