



## Supporting the Community Voice

Public Health established the Community Steering Committee (CSC) to capture the voices of representatives from the affected fishing communities. During 6 CSC meetings, the 15-member CSC (made up of CHAs and their leads) identified strategies and recommendations for the EPA's LDW Superfund IC Plan for safe seafood consumption.



Public Health assessed the CHA's involvement in the CSC and found:



CSC members felt they are heard by Public Health and EPA and see their ideas are valued in reviewing the text of EPA's draft IC Plan.



CSC members identified highlights in teaming, including: cross-cultural idea sharing; collaborative decision-making; and, empowering the group to develop recommendations to support community health

"We are many ethnic [groups] and we sit together, we plan together, we put input together... Once the program is a success that's how we can say 'Oh, this is from all of us together.' It's not just from one ethnic [group] only."

—CSC member

"I think it empowers me the most [that] we are speaking different languages but when we are in this room our ideas [are] united [as one] and.. put together. [It] is so powerful and I'm so happy for that."

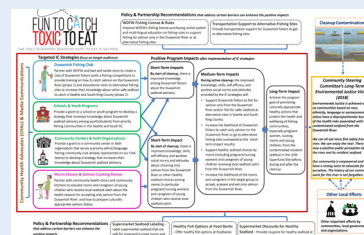
—CSC member



**510 CHA hours**

spent informing agency decision-makers

## 6 Community Steering Committee Meetings



The CSC outlined the IC strategies to achieve the program's goal. This guiding framework for the IC Plan also includes their recommendations for policies and partnership that fall outside the scope of the EPA's program.

## ANNUAL PROGRAM FACT SHEET

2018

# 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  
ត្រីដែលចាប់ពីស្ទឹងឌូវ៉ាមីស មានតែត្រីសាឈម៉ុនមួយគត់ដែលមានសុវត្ថិភាពសំរាប់បរិភោគ



Public Health  
Seattle & King County



## 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 2018, Public Health partnered with the Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) and Just Health Action (JHA) to train CHAs from the Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Latino fishing communities. The CHAs helped design and implement culturally appropriate tools and outreach to promote the health message. Some CHAs also helped develop the EPA's draft IC Implementation and Assurance Plan (IC Plan) through participation in Public Health's **Community Steering Committee (CSC)**.

## In 2018, Public Health Partnered with:



## PROGRAM CONTACTS

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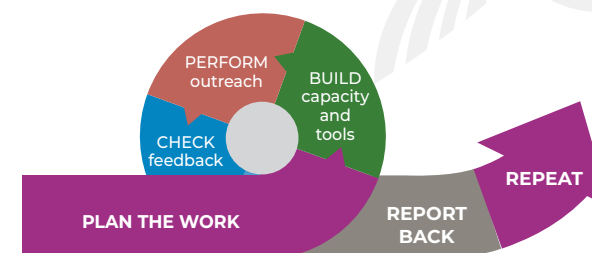
[www.kingcounty.gov/duwamish-fishing](http://www.kingcounty.gov/duwamish-fishing)



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## Community Informs All Stages



On June 9, Public Health and the EPA hosted a graduation ceremony with partners to celebrate the 23 CHAs who completed the training.





## Building community capacity



### Evaluation Findings:



CHAs' knowledge improvement is a key success of participating in the training program.



CHA's level of confidence and skills increased throughout the year.



The knowledge gained and experience in conducting community outreach empowered the CHAs.

*"I felt empowered because we received education from the organizations that I'm able to communicate to the community and also take feedback from the community to the organization, so I feel empowered in that process."*

—Khmer CHA, June 2018



**2,111** CHA team leads hours &  
**2,435** Public Health staff hours

spent training and providing technical assistance to CHA

*"We started with a lack of knowledge and confidence, but throughout the training we gained more knowledge... Also the community is more educated, so the conversation is getting easier and I'm able to deliver the message as well as answer questions. I started out nervous about 'what if they ask questions?' but now I am able to answer all the questions and come back to the meeting and share that with Public Health."*

—Vietnamese CHA, December 2018

**34** continuing training sessions

led by Public Health to support on-going capacity building of CHAs and their leads

**10-week training**  
(interactive lessons, boat tours, expert panels, and field visits)

**40** training hours  
completed by each CHA



## Raising community awareness

**46**

**outreach activities**

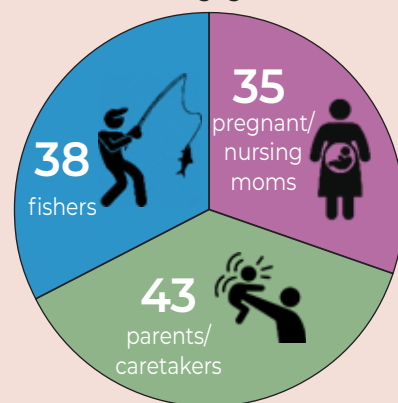
at homes, piers, community kitchens, farms, festivals and health fairs

**1,015** community members reached

**1,818** CHA hours

spent planning and conducting outreach

Of the 18 events where demographic information was collected, CHAs engaged:

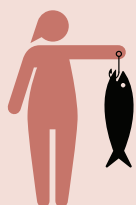


Latina CHAs teach how to prepare salmon ceviche at SeaMar's Community Kitchen in south Park.



Vietnamese Fisher CHAs outreach at Spokane Street Bridge, the most popular fishing site on the river.

*"All the information that we received from the beginning during the training and then being able to go tour the river, and then when we held our first event, having facilitators [CHA team leads] there supporting us and cheering us on gave us more trust and security."*



—Latino CHA, July 2018

CHAs provide multi-lingual health education on boat tours on the Duwamish River.



## Designing tools with community input

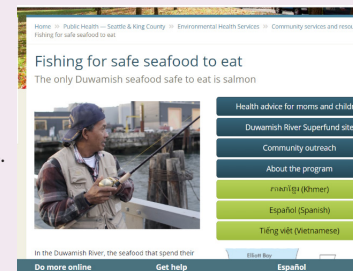
Public Health worked with the CHAs to create 7 new multi-lingual tools. These tools promote catching and eating only salmon from the Duwamish River and finding alternative fishing sites with safe seafood to eat in King County. The CHAs helped to design layouts, develop content, recruit for pilot-testing, translate materials and star in the videos.

**360** CHA hours

on collaborating with Public Health and other partners on developing tools

### Program Website

The multi-lingual website targets local fishing families, including the children who may research information for their fisher parents. Website includes an outreach page for each CHA team.



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



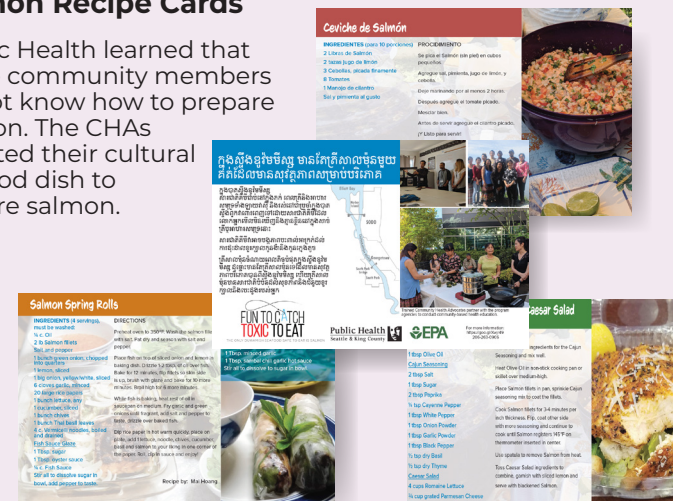
### "Go Fishing in King County" Guide

Fisher CHAs worked with Public Health's graphic designer to improve the design and messages so that the guide resonates better with fishers. The guide provides alternative fishing sites with safe seafood to catch in King County.



### Salmon Recipe Cards

Public Health learned that some community members do not know how to prepare salmon. The CHAs adapted their cultural seafood dish to feature salmon.



### Salmon Fishing "How-to" Videos

Public Health and the CHAs partnered with UW Superfund Research Center and WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to create a series of short educational "how-to" videos. The CHAs starred in the videos to teach about the fishing rules and health messages about salmon on the Duwamish River.



### EPA's Superfund 101 Video

Some CHAs helped to narrate the EPA's Superfund 101 training video in different languages.



CHAs were creative in developing their own tools for their outreach, including posters and educational videos.

