

Health Impact Assessment: Proposed Cleanup Plan *for the* Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site



Advance HIA Report

Recommendations to
maximize health benefits,
minimize impacts, and
reduce health inequities
of Proposed Duwamish
River Cleanup Plan

*UW School of Public Health
Just Health Action
Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/
Technical Advisory Group*

National HIA Meeting
September 24–25, 2013

Jonathan Childers, UW School of Public Health
BJ Cummings, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG

Resources & Methods

- EPA, Census data, Indian Health Board
- Academic literature Review
- Advisory Committees & Focus Groups:
 - Community Advisory Committees;
 - key informants, individual &
 - technical advisors,
 - focus groups

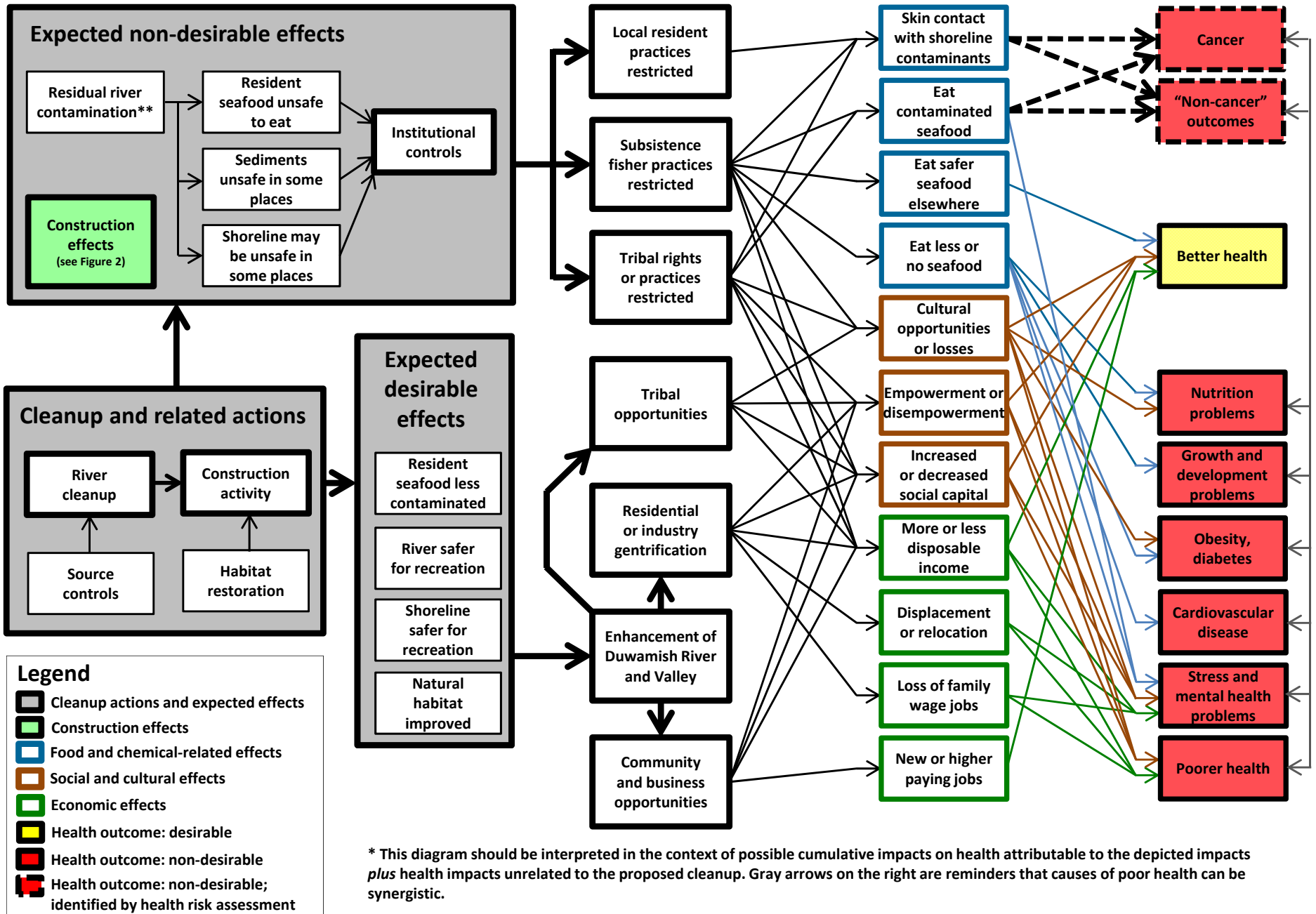


Community Engagement Focus



HIA investigation topics, research questions, and recommendations guided by affected communities

Figure 1: Potential health impacts of the proposed cleanup plan *



Fishing & Health Interventions

Why people fish on the Duwamish River

- * Cultural and traditional practices (tribal/immigrant)
- * Convenient, inexpensive source of healthy food
- * Recreation, relaxation, exercise
- * Spend time with friends and family (social cohesion)

= IMPORTANT HEALTH BENEFITS

**SOLUTION? “INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS” IN CLEANUP PLAN
DISCOURAGE FISHING → NEW HEALTH IMPACT PATHWAYS**

Three Tribes



Duwamish Tribe

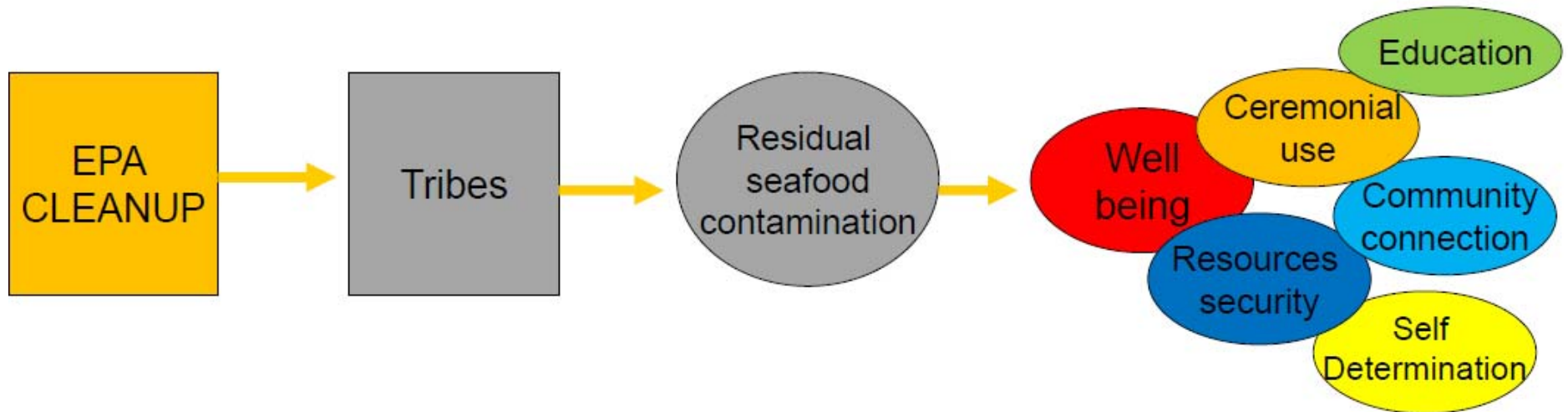


Suquamish Tribe



Tribal Fishers

Tribal Definitions of Health





Institutional Controls: Tribal Health Effects

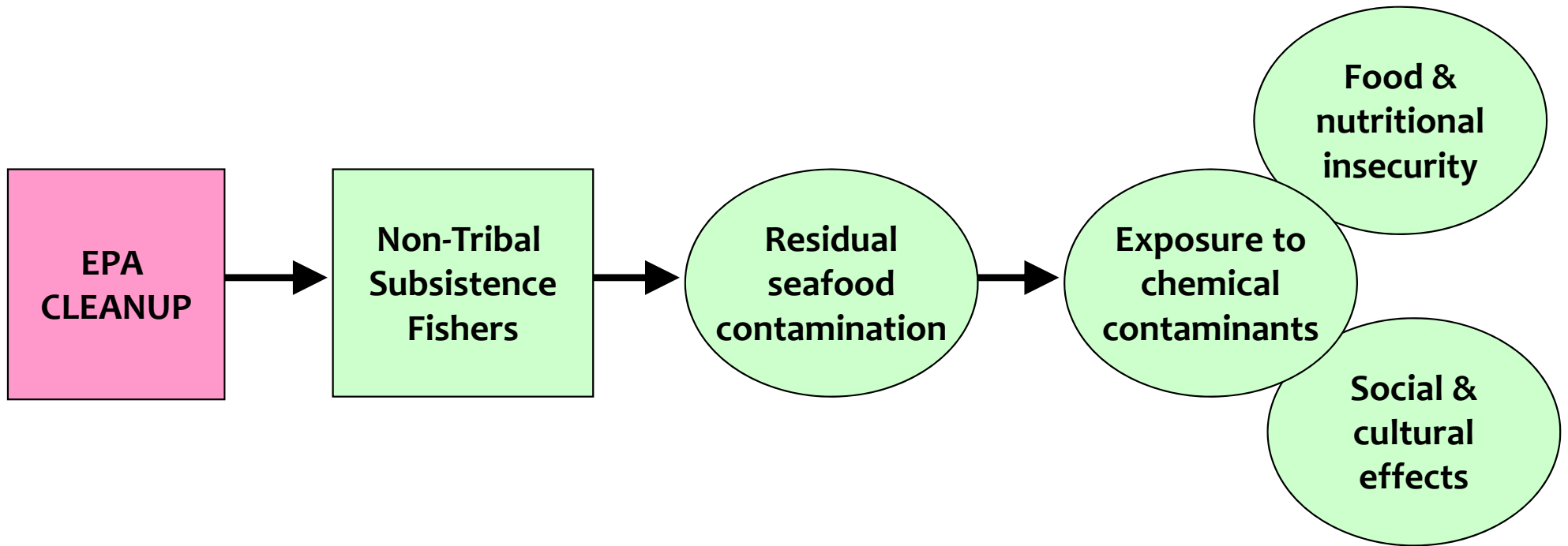
1. Violation of Tribal fishing rights
2. Food insecurity
3. Sacrifice physical health to protect spiritual health

Like we say, it's our spiritual food so it feeds our soul; it might poison our body, but then we we'd rather nourish our soul

Non-tribal subsistence fishers



Non-tribal Subsistence Fishers



Tribal Health Recommendations

1. Collaborate with Tribes to more fully address their health concerns about river cleanup
2. Restore Tribes' traditional resource use in accordance with Treaty rights: Institutional Controls need to be temporary, not permanent
- 3. Establish Revitalization Fund to enhance Tribal empowerment and health until Institutional Controls are removed**



Subsistence Fisher Recommendations

1. Institutional controls should go beyond restrictive and informational actions.
2. Interventions should emphasize positive alternatives.
3. **There is a clear need for innovative thinking.**
Possible options:
 - a. “Off-sets” in EPA *EJ Analysis*
 - b. Supply fish to local food banks
 - c. Community Supported Fishery (CSF) programs
 - d. Urban fishing ponds

Subsistence Fisher Recommendations

4. Target audience should include people who *might* fish on the Duwamish; not just current fishers.
5. Efforts should be culturally appropriate, and should be designed to help people make informed choices.
6. Efforts should engage and empower members of fishing populations, to participate meaningfully in all stages of intervention.

Policy Response

To date:

- 1. Mayor, City Council issued statement endorsing subset of HIA recommendations**
 - 2014-15 biennial budget allocations upcoming**
- 2. Submitted to EPA as formal public comment on proposed cleanup plan**
 - recommendations will be addressed in responsiveness summary (2014)**
- 3. County reassessing resident construction impacts per HIA data, with support from local public health agency**