

Methods

The project is the result of compiling the available existing data and assessing it for its application to shoreline function. The documents and data reviewed are listed in a master project bibliography and provided as a Word document. Documents and data review was assessed for its accuracy and its application for shoreline function. In reviewing material, some data sources were not included for this analysis if the authorship could not be determined or if there was question as to its accuracy or its application to shoreline function. Some field confirmation was performed, but field work was extremely limited and not a primary task in the scope of this project. GIS layers of most the included attributes reviewed have been submitted to the City of Bellingham.

Each Shoreline Management Area (SMA) is divided into reaches, as depicted in the GIS material submitted. A summary sheet for each watershed is also provided. The watershed analysis summarizes key elements within a given SMA and its greater watershed. Each reach has a corresponding data sheet that includes a list of attributes used to analyze the general land use, potential presence of wildlife and fish species, general physical environment, specific attributes for either lacustrine, riparian or marine function, and a review of historic and cultural data. Each reach data sheet concludes with an analysis of ecological function. The function analysis reviews the hydrologic, shoreline vegetation and general habitat functions within a given reach. The function analysis identifies limiting factors that may impede function and assesses the likelihood that given functions are sustainable over time. The final portion of the reach analysis reviewed priority actions identified to improve function within a particular reach; identifies any current or proposed enhancement actions; and finishes with a list of less vital opportunities for preservation and/or enhancement actions in the SMA. References are provided in parenthesis for each attribute reviewed. The references are footnoted and refer back to the master literature list for the project. A glossary has been provided to define the terms used in this analysis.