Briefing for Peter on Shoreline-related issues:
I have not had recent conversations with folks regarding HTL, cumulative effects or softshore solutions, but here is what I know at this time:

Muffy/the Corps – Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process She is a member of the RAFT team (formerly 2.1.1 of the Action Plan), so we have not included that subject in our discussion in the one meeting we have had. She seemed very interested in pursuing a pilot restoration project in the nearshore or estuary for evaluating permitting inefficiencies. She indicated that they had not really worked out yet how they were going to implement the new NWP 54 (Living Shorelines), and the RAFT pilot process may add value for their implementation of that NWP. She said that the Corps had been meeting with the state (mostly Ecology and WDFW) and they were all interested in working together to resolve the issue around soft armoring and the need for a Corps permit. I have not been able to get ahold of anyone at Ecology to get additional, recent information.

Joe Burcar (the Puget Sound rep in place of Josh Baldi at Ecology) – Joe indicated that it would be very desirable if the Corps would move their Jurisdictional line up to the vicinity of the OHWM not only from an environmental perspective, but it would mean better collaboration between the Corps and Ecology permitting folks. But, I gathered that Ecology is resigned to the fact that it is not going to happen soon and is not pushing it. They are just trying to reduce the disincentives for their permitees to do the right thing around shoreline armoring at this point.

Joe indicated that they want to work with the Corps on implementing NWP 54 (Living Shorelines) since they will have to implement it as well. He wonders how NMFS feels about soft shore projects below HAT. Also, Ecology would like to see some tracking of armoring replacement projects.

Sono Hashisaki and Terry Williams – have met with Muffy on at least one occasion to discuss aligning permit requirements, and apparently, Muffy was receptive to this, but I don't know specifics about the conversation and whether it involved discussions on HAT.

Summary of Recommended Actions to Further Enhance Shorelines from our joint recommendation document (also in 2.2.3.8 in the Action Plan)

- Multi-agency permitting team – Form a team of pertinent state/federal agency regulatory staff to work on development and restoration project applications in the marine shoreline to facilitate permitting efficiencies and compliance monitoring should the HTL change to the MAHT (this may be an outcome of the RAFT after evaluation of the pilot project even without a change).
- Coastal Improvement Team- Form a team of technical experts from various agencies to assist local governments and landowners about the options for shoreline armoring/protection and the ecological reasons behind them. Assist with funding options. A version of this is in the Action Plan.
- Development Thresholds – Fed and State agencies to work on a system to track new, replaced and removed hard and soft shoreline armoring. This will provide a better analysis of cumulative effects of the various permitting mechanisms for the development of future Nationwide permits, Shoreline Master Programs, and HPA amendments(Elizabeth and I talked about this for the next NWP update).
- Dredged Material Management – Look for opportunities to promote the use of clean dredge material for habitat restoration and create efficiencies in the permitting process for this activity (example: landslides along BNSF could be tossed onto the beach below).