

Baker to Bay Symposium September 20-21, 2017: Evaluation Results

Evaluations were handed out with registration packets on each day of the symposium. Attendees were asked at the beginning of each day and reminded at the end of each day to complete the evaluation and deposit in a box upon exiting the venue. A few notes on the evaluation:

- The evaluation form was available in paper form only.
- The number of evaluations returned for 64 for Day 1, *Community Perspectives, Challenges, and Solutions* and 50 for Day 2, *State of the Science-Latest Research*. Registration for Day 1 was 175 and for Day 2 it was 215.
- The audience for the first day was advertised for a general audience and the second day for a technical audience; anyone was invited to attend either or both days.
- The mixed audience on the second day had a likely influence on the evaluation results (e.g., comments that the presentations were too technical, unable to follow the research presented). Additionally, a class from Bellingham Technical College Fisheries and Aquaculture class attended Day 2. This was also likely the first introduction of many of the students to many of the topics presented and may also have had an influence on the evaluation results.
- The evaluation questions that were asked in the survey are duplicated in this document. If the question was easily quantified and charted, the results are presented as such. In instances where the questions were not easily quantified, a summary statement or statements are provided.
- For questions that were measurable, attendees were asked to provide a rating between 1 and 5 with 1 being the lowest possible rating (e.g., not at all helpful) and 5 being the highest rating (e.g., very helpful).
- The Histogram of Learning graphs show how much knowledge was gained during the symposium by each attendee. For example, if the participant answered that their knowledge before the symposium was at level 3 (somewhat knowledgeable) and then rated their knowledge after the symposium as level 5 (very knowledgeable), their knowledge improved by 2 positions.
- Given the number of comments provided for later questions, responses may be provided as general statements or common themes.
- Not all attendees that completed evaluations responded to all questions.

Community Perspectives, Challenges, and Solutions, September 20, 2017

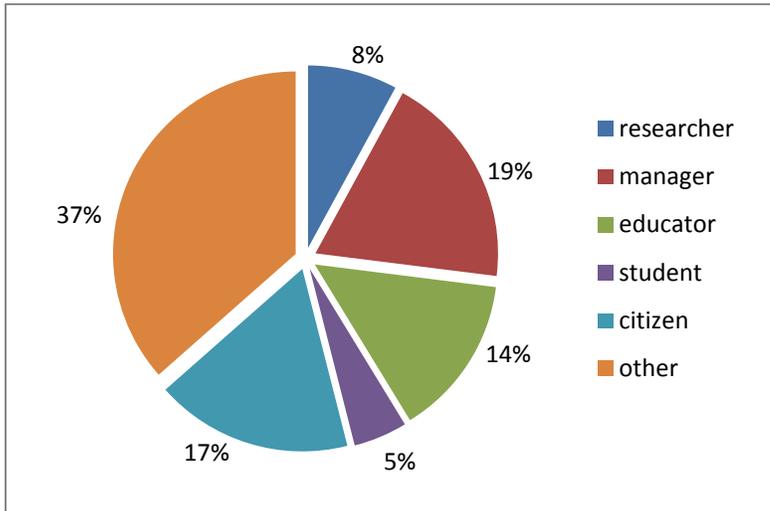
1. Please provide your organization or affiliation (if any)

There were a number of different organizations with representatives or staff attending the symposium. Types of organizations represented included non-profits (agricultural, environmental, forestry, and land conservation), special districts, state and local government, private consulting and engineering firms, academic institutions, and Tribes.

2. Please select the item below that best represents your work and/or interest.

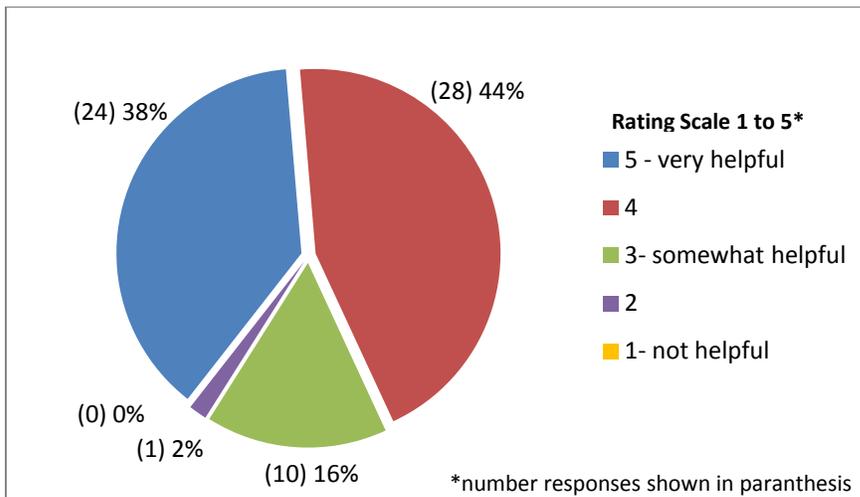
Options to select from included researcher, manager, educator, student, citizen, or other. 37% of those responding had either marked multiple options or entered one “other” category (i.e., consultant). Those marking multiple options for example marked “educator and researcher” or all of the above.

While conclusions cannot be drawn about percentage of representative interests, there is sufficient information to demonstrate that the goal of having a mixed audience was met.



3. How helpful was this symposium in helping you understand the range of perspectives regarding ecosystem benefits and challenges for major stakeholders?

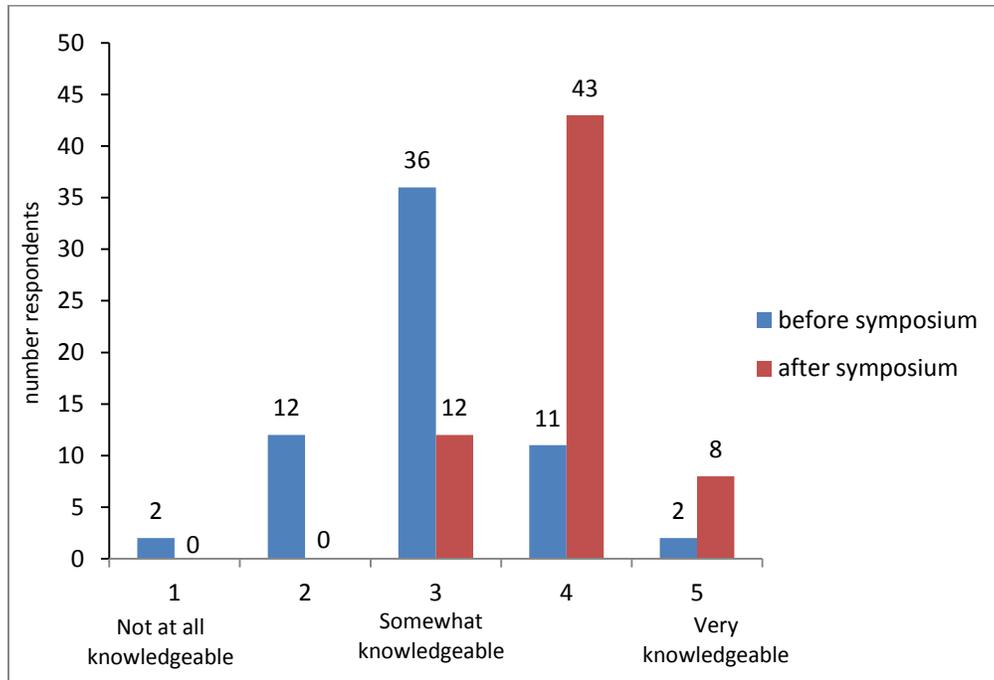
The rating format for this question was 1 to 5 with 1 Not at all helpful, 3 Somewhat helpful and 5 Very helpful. 82% (52 respondents) rated the symposium as either a 4 or 5 (38% rated it 5 and 44% rated it 4). 16% (10 respondents) rated it 3 and 2% (1 respondent) rated it 2.



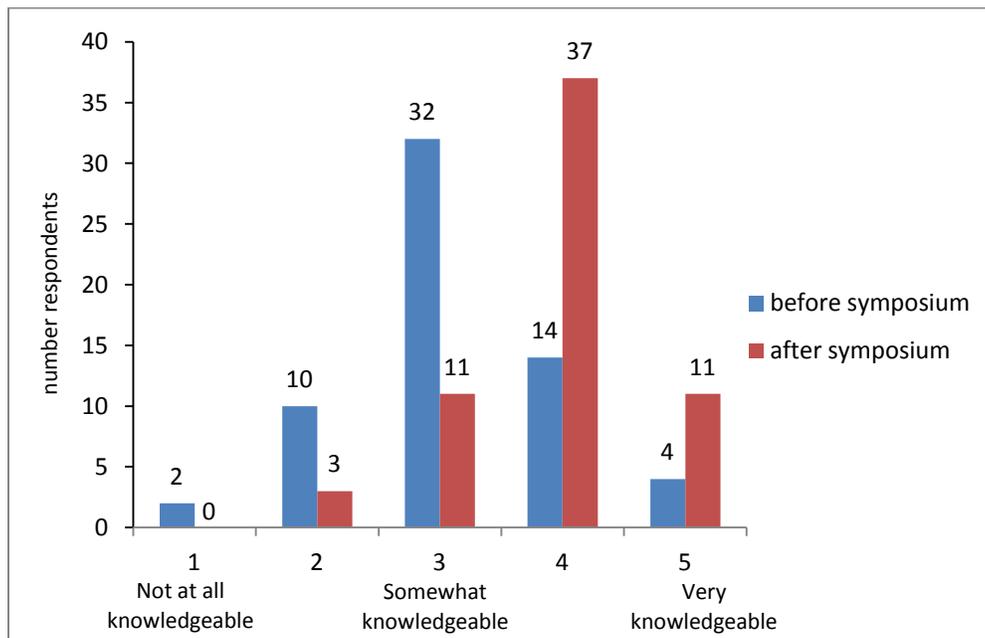
4. Several sub-questions were asked under number 4. For the first three sub-questions related to learning, respondents were asked to provide a rating from 1 to 5 on their level of

knowledge before and after the symposium with 1 being Not at all Knowledgeable, 3 Somewhat Knowledgeable, and 5 Very Knowledgeable.

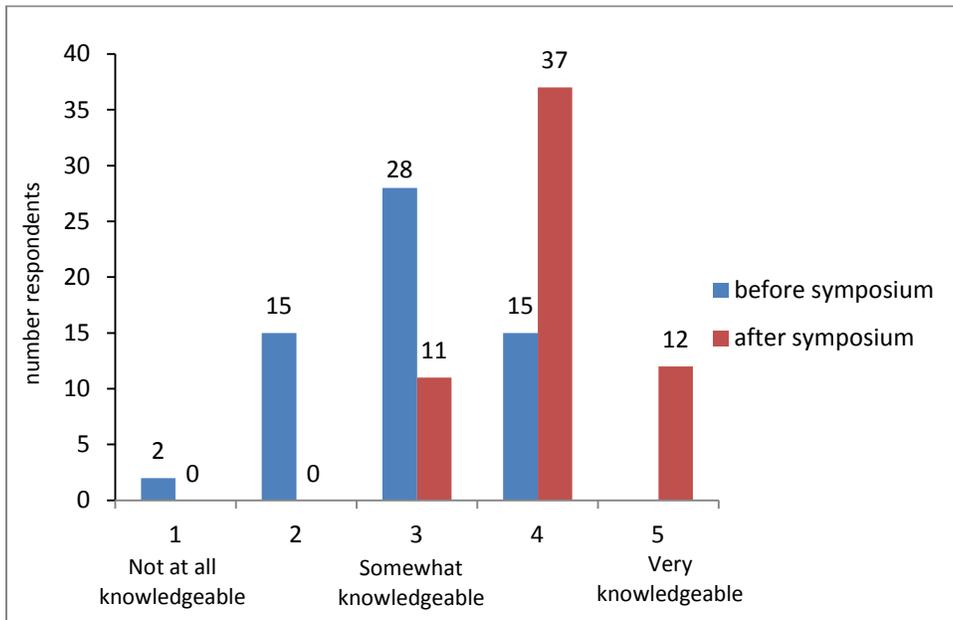
a. How would you rate your understanding of the current status of the local ecosystem and how that status has changed over time?



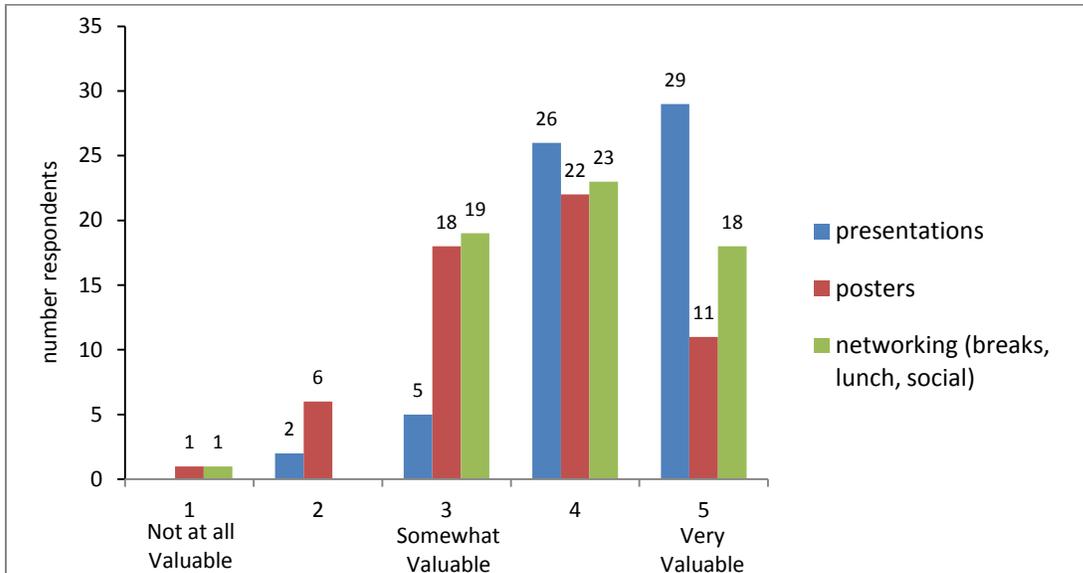
b. How would you rate your understanding of the value of local resources and the status of economic and social benefits?



c. How would you rate your understanding of the value of local resources and the status of economic and social benefits?



d. Please rate the value of each of the following in helping understand the ecosystem recovery actions in Whatcom County. (rating scale of 1-5 with 1 Not at all Valuable, 3 Somewhat Valuable, and 5 Very Valuable).



5. Are there particular priorities you think should be focused on?

Themes in priorities to focus on included:

- Building relationships and trust throughout the community. Provide information on how to have constructive and productive conversations to create trust. Transparent discussion of the different views of what is “balance”.

- Community education in a non-biased facts based manner. Informing general public of the extent to which everyone in this watershed protection and restoration conversation is collaborating and sharing information. Package the information from the symposium for general public consumption.
- Provide more focus and highlight how collaboration is taking place to show how different perspectives are being taken into consideration for solutions and problem solving.
- Provide information on how to inform and create buy-in to create a “cultural shift” in understanding and action.
- Future needs for ecosystem recovery.
- Focus on how to accelerate change to achieve results faster.
- Quantification of economic and social benefits related to local resources and ecosystem recovery actions.
- Continue providing information on ecosystem topics including restoration, riparian function, water quality parameters, fish passage, water supply issues. What actions are having the greatest impact for ecosystem recovery?

6. Do you think additional actions are necessary to move forward with the remaining issues?
Possible responses were yes, no or not sure.

48 people responded yes, 2 responded no, and 5 responded not sure. Comments relevant to the question are as follows:

- Honest assessment of each “value” sector’s goal. How can you know how to proceed without knowing what’s on the table?
- Continue all of these conversations.
- Convince groups to drop polarizing, negative messaging that harms the potential for building trust.
- Leadership to move ahead.
- Coalition building.

7. Do you have any other questions, comments, or suggestions?

Comment themes included:

- Good balance of speakers and topics, event well organized.
- Increase diversity on panel
- Encourage speakers to use less text on presentations, view in advance, timing so aren’t rushing at end, screen images too small in large room.
- There wasn’t any information on wetlands as a topic.
- Water at tables, use of recycling bins and compostable materials.
- Appreciated bios on tables.
- More interaction with audience, some comments on breakout sessions, more breaks for networking.

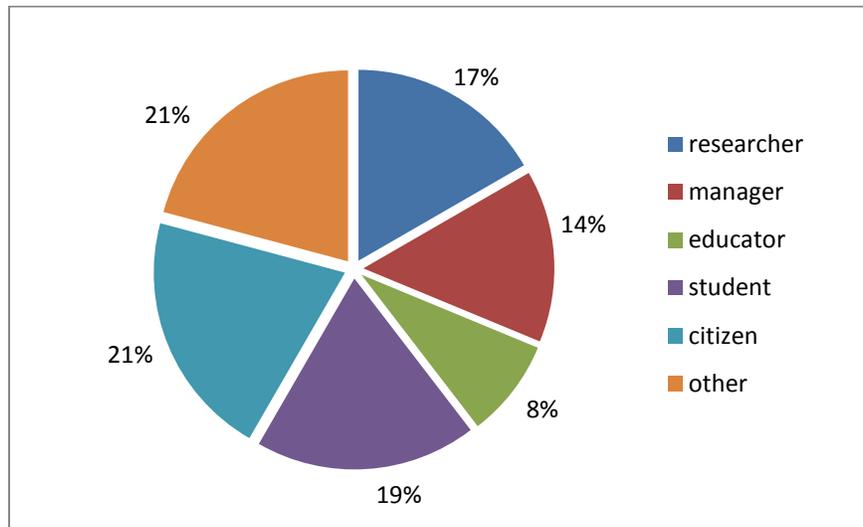
State of the Science- Latest Research, September 21, 2017

1. Please provide your organization or affiliation (if any)

There were a number of different organizations with representatives or staff attending the symposium. Types of organizations represented included non-profits (agricultural, environmental, forestry, and land conservation), special districts, state and local government, private consulting and engineering firms, academic institutions, and Tribes.

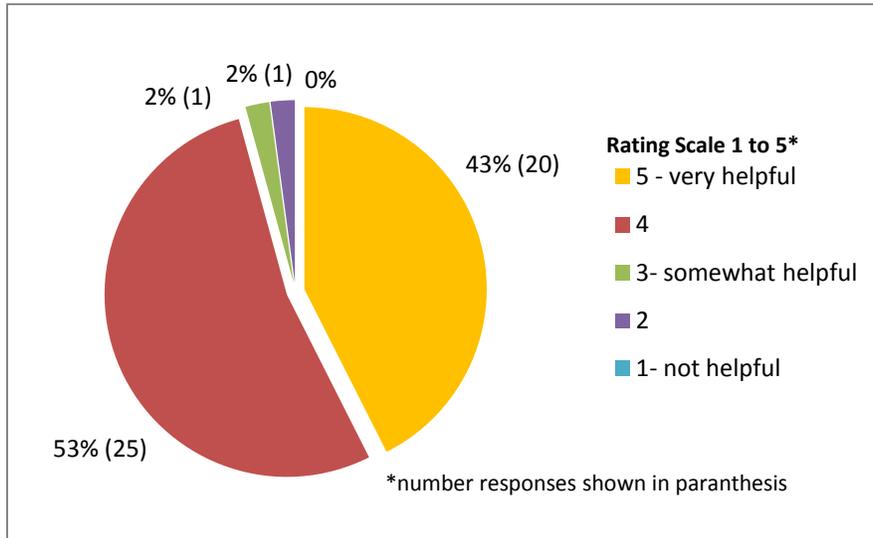
2. Please select the item below that best represents your work and/or interest.

Options to select from included researcher, manager, educator, student, citizen, or other. 21% of those responding had either marked multiple options or entered one “other” category (i.e., consultant). Those marking multiple options for example marked “educator and researcher” or all of the above.



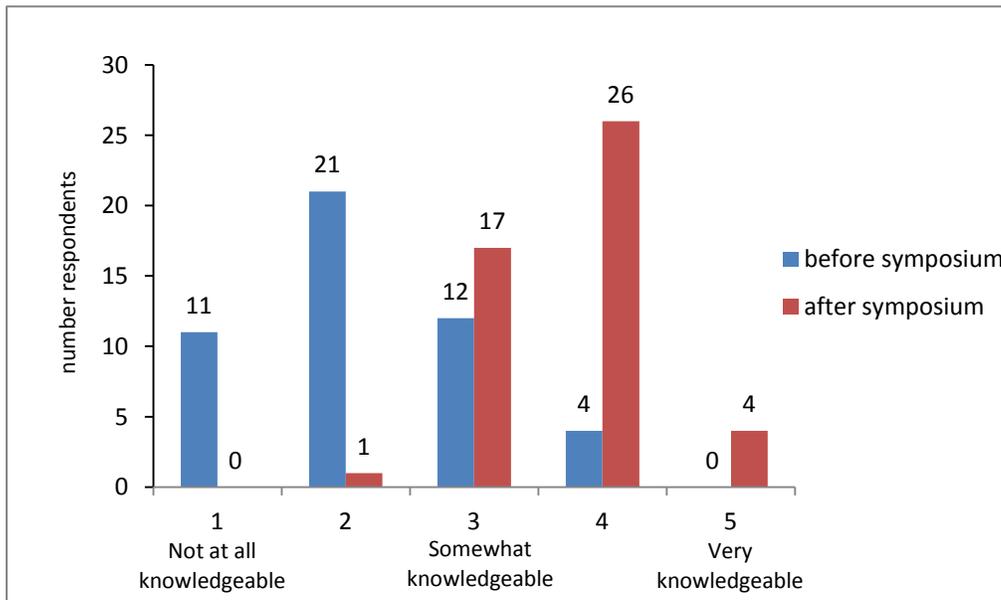
3. How helpful was this symposium in helping you understand new research results in order to better understand the ecosystems that we seek to manage and protect to serve our community needs?

The rating format for this question was 1 to 5 with 1 Not at all helpful, 3 Somewhat helpful and 5 Very helpful. 96% (45 respondents) rated the symposium as either a 4 or 5 (43% rated it 5 and 53% rated it 4). 2% (1 respondents) rated it 3 and 2% (1 respondent) rated it 2.

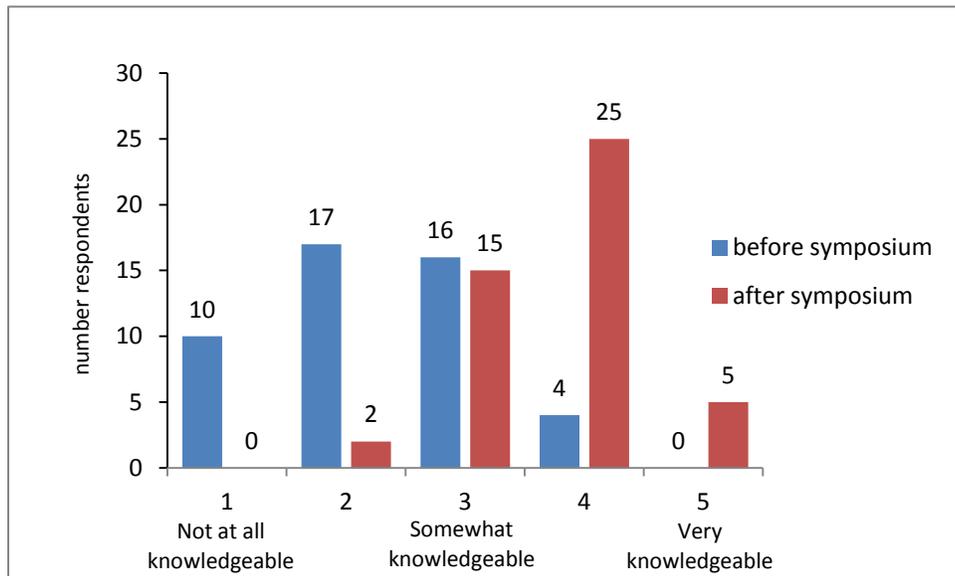


4. Several sub-questions were asked under number 4. For the first three sub-questions related to learning, respondents were asked to provide a rating from 1 to 5 on their level of knowledge before and after the symposium with 1 being Not at all Knowledgeable, 3 Somewhat Knowledgeable, and 5 Very Knowledgeable.

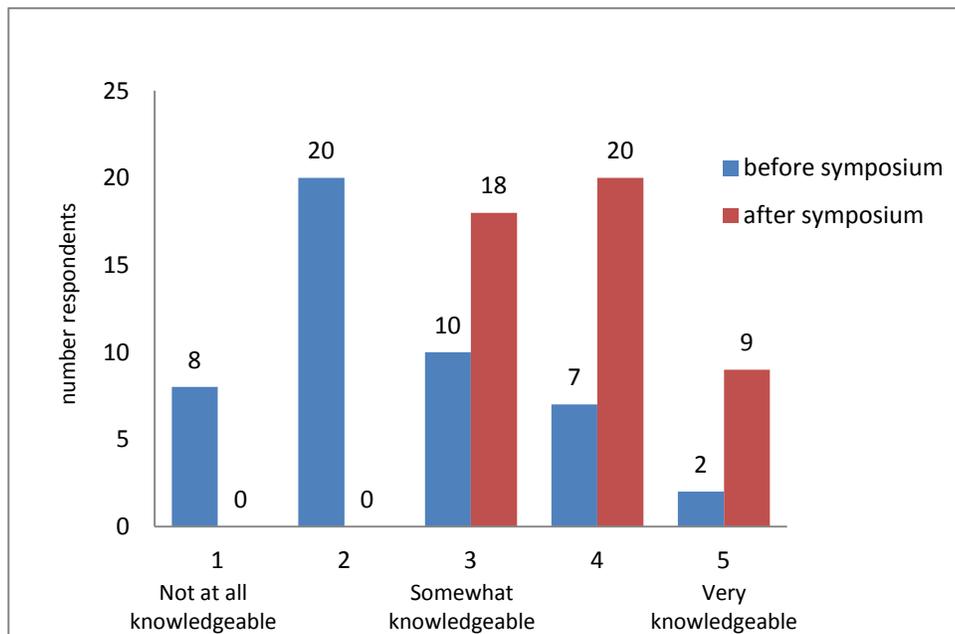
a. How would you rate your understanding of some of the latest research on upper-watershed systems?



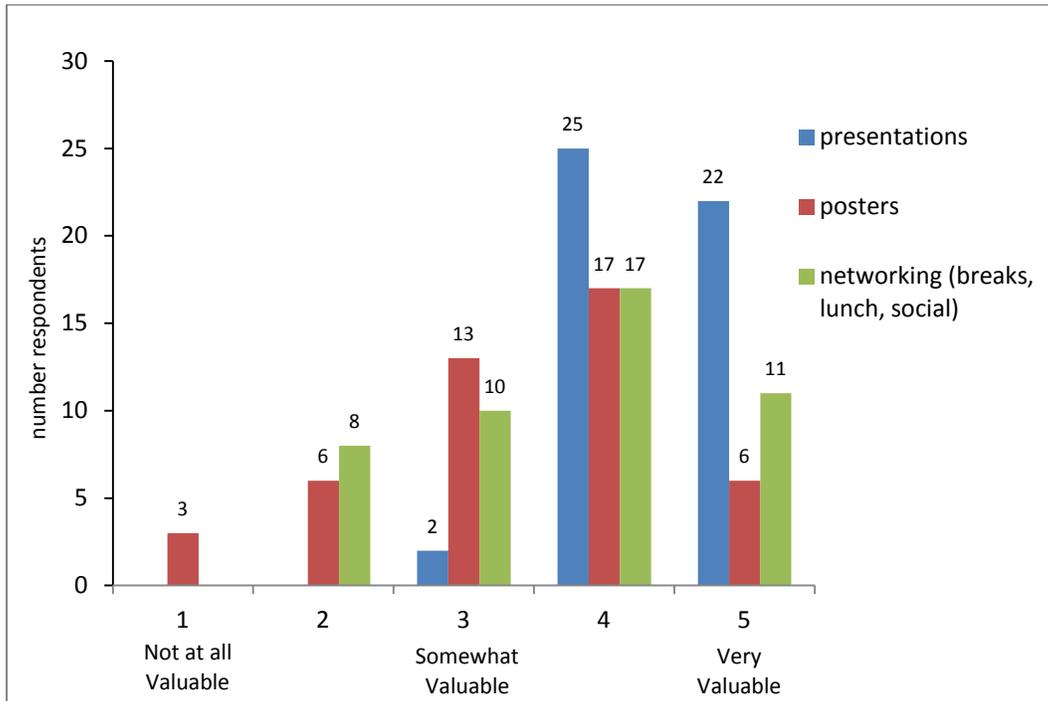
b. How would you rate your understanding of some of the latest research on lower-watershed systems?



c. How would you rate your understanding of some of the latest research on shorelines and marine systems?



d. Please rate the value of each of the following in helping understand the ecosystem recovery actions in Whatcom County. (rating scale of 1-5 with 1 Not at all Valuable, 3 Somewhat Valuable, and 5 Very Valuable).



5. Please identify and describe any additional research and/or further studies that would be particularly useful for better understanding of the state of our ecosystem.

A bulleted list of relevant responses is as follows:

- Pollution found in salmon and how to reduce it.
- How much wetlands, side channels, and connected floodplains are needed to recovery Chinook (presentation only covered ELJs and pools for adult Chinook returning).
- Source control for personal care/consumer products.
- Incorporate sediment transport and how much is being trapped or directed to floodplains.
- More on ocean acidification outside of Bellingham Bay.
- Satellite monitoring of offshore fishing industry.
- More research on LID methods and effects of implementation
- Salmon survival from Nooksack Delta to ocean and back to river (similar to Marine Survival Project)
- Amphibians and water distribution seasonally to aid endangered frog species.
- WWU professor’s work using riparian restoration to mitigate climate change impacts.
- Harmful algal blooms in Bellingham Bay and Bellingham Bay productivity.
- Positive and negative impact of hatchery programs.
- Sustainable rivers (man-made) that will feed all ecosystems.

6. Are their particular priorities you think should be focused on?

Themes in priorities to focus on included:

- Reconnecting floodplain to restore rearing habitat for juveniles
- Information and education on science and connecting science to restoration needs.
Translate the science for educating and engaging the general public.
- Climate change issues including water use and ecosystem impacts.
- Sediment transport and effects on ecology and communities.
- Peak flow and water storage.

7. Do you think additional actions are necessary to move forward with the remaining issues?

Possible responses were yes, no or not sure.

30 people responded yes, 1 responded no, and 7 responded not sure. Comments relevant to the question are as follows:

- More solutions or adaptation to climate change & ocean acidification
- Keep up the education to the schools and public

8. Do you have any other questions, comments, or suggestions?

Comment themes included:

- Mixed audience was not expected. Thought the audience was technical but seemed to be focused on general public.
- Length of presentations was commented – some thought more time should have been provided for presenters but most felt the time allocated was sufficient but the presenters had too much information and rushed at the end to fit it all in.
- Suggestions for more participatory research (citizen scientists).
- Suggestion for having the science on the first day and then the general discussion of solutions on the second day if the symposium is repeated again. Several suggestions to continue with symposiums annually or every other year.
- Suggestions ranged from wanting more networking while others appreciated the focus on “learning”.
- Complimentary comments on the organization of the event and range of topics and speakers.