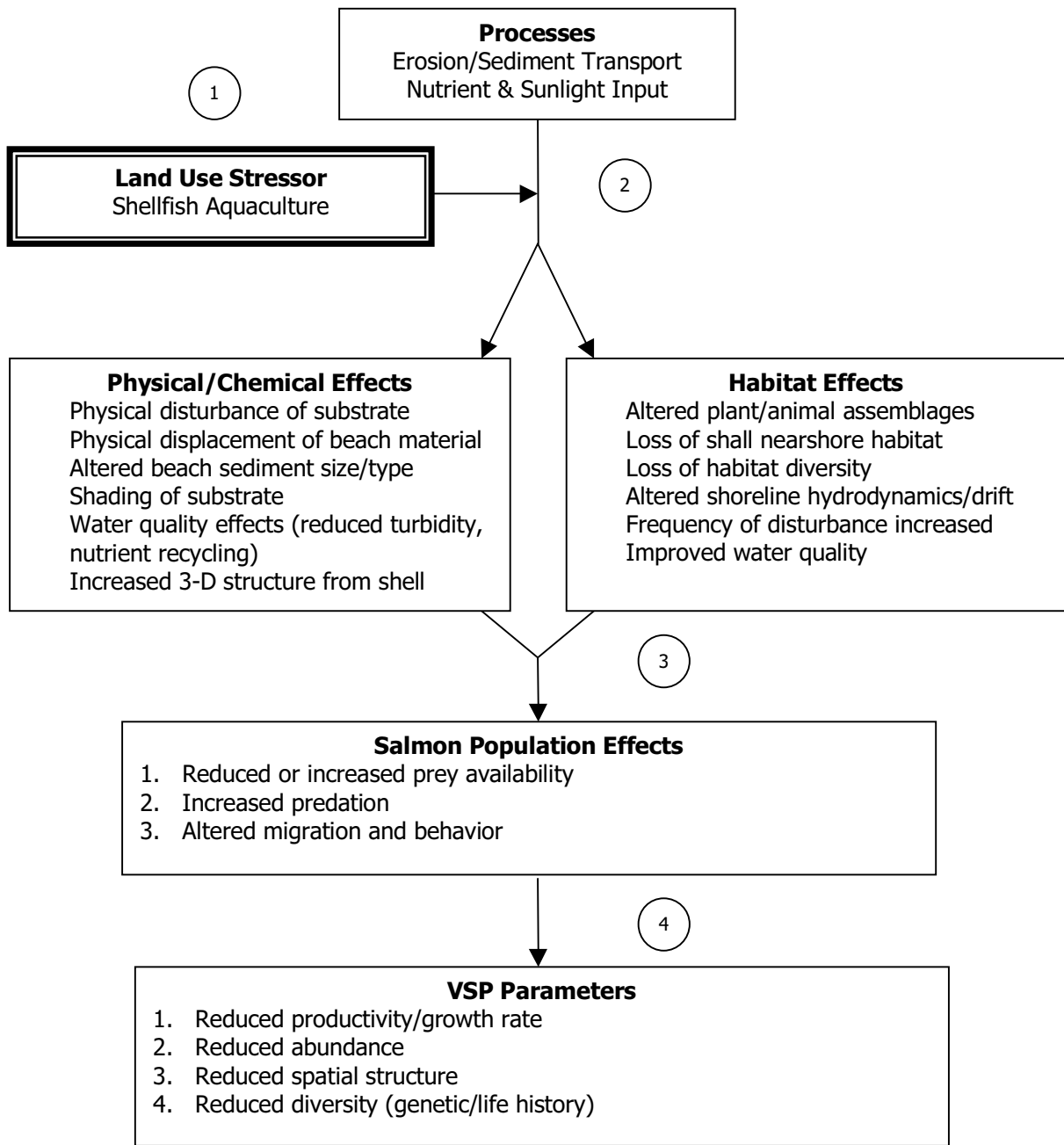


# Shellfish Aquaculture



**Hypothesis:**

Shellfish aquaculture in South Sound alters plant and animal assemblages and results in the loss of shallow nearshore habitat and habitat diversity important to salmon resources. These impacts may be potentially positive or negative depending on the type of aquaculture practice. We hypothesize that shellfish aquaculture reduces productivity, abundance, spatial structure, and diversity of salmon populations.