

Southwest Whidbey Island

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Southwest Whidbey Island

Year Ending: December 31, 2023

Classification: Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2023

The growing area was sampled six times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. A routine three-year shoreline evaluation was completed, and the Department evaluated wildlife and boating activities, six agricultural sites, 83 on-site sewage systems, and sampled eight drainages in the growing area. Three drainages had elevated bacteria levels however all discharge to Prohibited and unclassified portions of the growing area, or parcels in Closed status. No Direct or Indirect impacts were identified to Approved portions of the growing area and no new pollution sources were identified.

The Island County Health Department received grant funding from the National Estuary Program to continue pollution identification and correction work in the Maxwellton watershed.

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes the results of the last 30 samples collected from the area. This summary shows that all stations pass the NSSP water quality standard.

Change in Actual Pollution Sources that Impact the Growing Area

We currently have no information indicating that the area has new sources of pollution.

Classification Status

- Well within the classification standards
- Meets standards, but threatened with downgrade in classification
- Fails to meet current classification standards

Remarks and Recommendations

Table 1 shows that all stations meet the NSSP water quality standard for an Approved classification and the area is correctly classified.

TABLE 1. Summary of Marine Water Data (SRS) for the Southwest Whidbey Island Growing Area

Sampling Event Type: Regulatory

Maximum Number of Samples: 30

Tides Included: All

Station Number	Classification	Date Range	Range (FC/100mL)	Geomean (FC/100mL)	Est. 90 th Percentile (FC/100mL)	Meets Standard
248	Approved	2/28/2019 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	Y
249	Approved	2/28/2019 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 1.7	1.7	1.7	Y
250	Approved	2/28/2019 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.8	Y
254	Approved	2/28/2019 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.8	Y
256	Approved	7/21/2014 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 1.8	1.7	1.7	Y
257	Approved	8/14/2014 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 4.0	1.7	2.1	Y
258	Approved	10/20/2014 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.9	Y
259	Approved	2/28/2019 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 7.8	1.9	2.8	Y
260	Approved	10/5/2015 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 6.8	2.0	3.0	Y
395	Approved	2/28/2019 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.8	1.9	Y
255	Prohibited	10/5/2015 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 7.8	1.9	3.0	Y
284	Prohibited	2/28/2019 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 6.8	1.8	2.5	Y
246	Unclassified	10/5/2015 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 13.0	2.3	5.0	Y
247	Unclassified	10/5/2015 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.5	Y
309	Unclassified	10/5/2015 - 12/18/2023	1.7 - 7.8	2.3	4.9	Y

The standard for approved shellfish growing waters is fecal coliform geometric mean not greater than 14 organisms/ 100 mL with an estimated 90th percentile not greater than 43 organisms/ 100 mL. The above table shows bacteriological results in relation to program standards.

MAP 1. Southwest Whidbey Island Growing Area

