



Shellfish Program June 2014

The Shellfish Program is responsible for providing sanitary control of molluscan shellfish (oysters, clams, and mussels). We work closely with tribes, local health jurisdictions, volunteer groups, state and federal agencies, and the shellfish industry.

- **Biotoxin Monitoring**—We have an extensive marine biotoxin monitoring network to detect paralytic shellfish toxin and domoic acid in shellfish.
- **Growing Area Classification**—Sanitary surveys that include water quality monitoring and pollution source evaluations are conducted in about 100 commercial and 250 recreational growing areas to determine their suitability for shellfish harvest.
- **Illness Investigations**—Washington State has an international reputation for providing safe shellfish; however, illness outbreaks occasionally do occur. We investigate illnesses caused by consuming shellfish originating from Washington waters.
- **Licensing, Certification, and Inspection**—All shellfish harvesters, processing facilities, and wholesale dealers are licensed annually and inspected on a regular basis to determine compliance with applicable sanitary standards. We work to ensure our program meets requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program established under the federal Food and Drug Administration so companies can export product internationally. We also process requests for export certificates by companies sending product to various Asian countries.
- **Recreational Shellfish**—We provide recreational harvesters with information about where and when it's safe to harvest shellfish. Local health jurisdictions participate in sample collection for biotoxin monitoring and development and implementation of education and outreach programs.
- **Restoration**—The goal of the Restoration Program is to reopen commercial and recreational shellfish beds that have been closed and to prevent the closure of shellfish areas that are still open but threatened.

The Department of Health serves as one of the state agencies on the Ecosystem Coordination board to assist the Puget Sound Partnership in assessing, developing, and implementing the action agenda. Portions of the Shellfish program funding include activities that serve this purpose such as shellfish monitoring and advisory program; Puget Sound planning; and sustaining ongoing monitoring programs to provide status and trend and effectiveness information to inform State of the Sound reporting and other synthesis.

Services

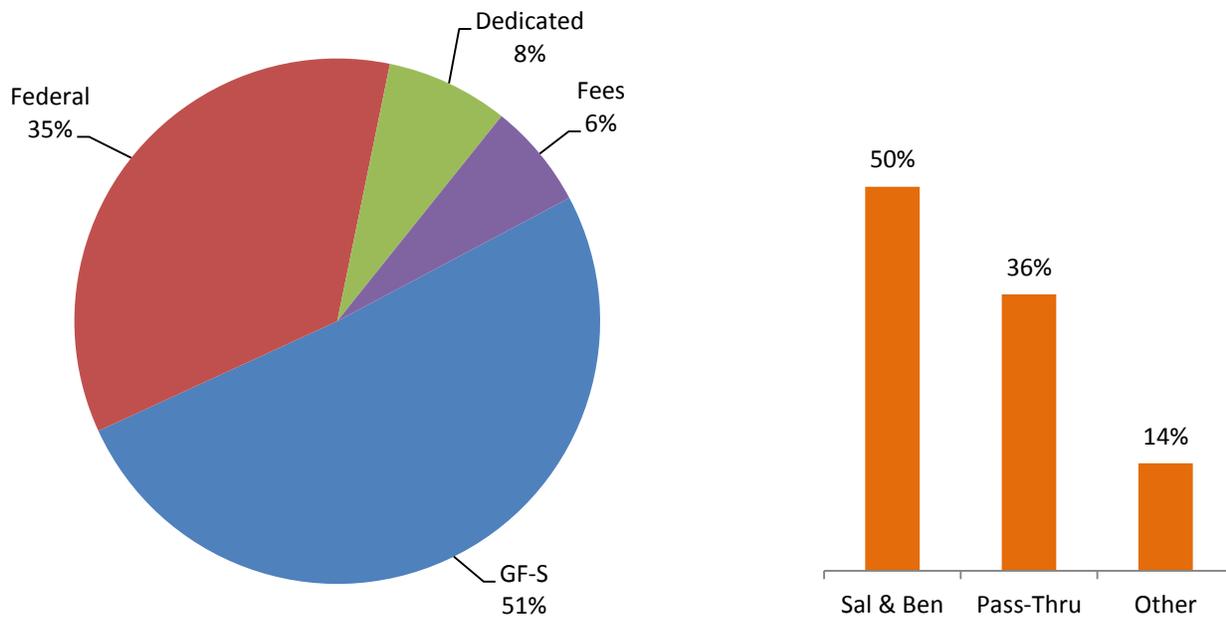
- Sample commercial and recreational shellfish to determine biotoxin levels.
- Conduct sanitary surveys in commercial and recreational growing areas to determine their suitability for shellfish harvest.
- Work closely with stakeholders to investigate and prevent shellfish related illnesses.
- Conduct inspections to ensure shellfish companies meet strict sanitary standards.
- Provide annual licenses to over 300 shellfish operation companies.
- Analyze data to report status and trends of fecal pollution and biotoxin levels in Puget Sound.
- Provide information to recreational harvesters regarding when it is safe to harvest shellfish.
- Work closely with stakeholders to identify and correct pollution sources.

Stakeholders

- Tribes, local health jurisdictions, volunteer groups, state and federal agencies, and the shellfish industry.

2013-15 Biennium

Shellfish Program Fiscal Information



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated	Fees	Total	Sal & Ben	Pass-Thru	Other
Total	4,230,785	2,914,347	625,472	538,158	8,308,762	4,160,279	2,951,669	1,196,814

Recent Funding History

2011-13 biennium:

- One time GF-S reduction of \$194,000 eliminated a shoreline survey position until the end of the biennium.
- We received an \$11.5 million six-year federal award for Puget Sound Pathogens, of which approximately thirty percent is additional funding for shellfish related activities.