

Skagit County: Water Quality Early Warning System Report

Shellfish Programs | Office of Environmental Health and Safety | Washington State Department of Health

This report defines specific locations where marine water quality is impacted and may require a change to the commercial growing area classification. We're providing this information as a first step towards identifying and correcting pollution problems.

The National Shellfish Sanitation Program prescribes two methods to evaluate bacteria levels in shellfish harvesting areas: Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) and Adverse Pollution Conditions (APC). Both use a minimum of 30 samples. With the SRS method, the estimated 90th percentile cannot exceed 43 fc/100 ml. With the APC method, no more than 10% of the samples can exceed 43 fc/100 ml. If either of the predefined methods is exceeded, no shellfish can be directly harvested from the area around that marine water station.

Definitions

Failing – These marine water sampling stations do not meet the shellfish area water quality standards for safe harvesting. The classification of the shellfish harvesting area must be downgraded.

Threatened – These stations are currently meeting the standards; however, they are near “failing,” or existing shoreline pollution sources have been identified that may impact public health if not appropriately managed. “Threatened” status is assigned to water sampling stations with estimated 90th percentiles between 30 and 43 fc/100 ml or if more than 6% of the samples have exceeded 43 fc/100 ml.

Concerned – These stations also meet the standards but data is showing that water quality is impacted. “Concerned” status is assigned when a water sampling station’s estimated 90th percentile is greater than 20 fc/100 ml but less than 30 fc/100 ml.

Shellfish Growing Area Status

GROWING AREA NAME	MARINE WATER STATION		
	FAILING	THREATENED	CONCERNED
Samish Bay			94
Swinomish		329	

Shellfish Programs Contact



Lawrence Sullivan

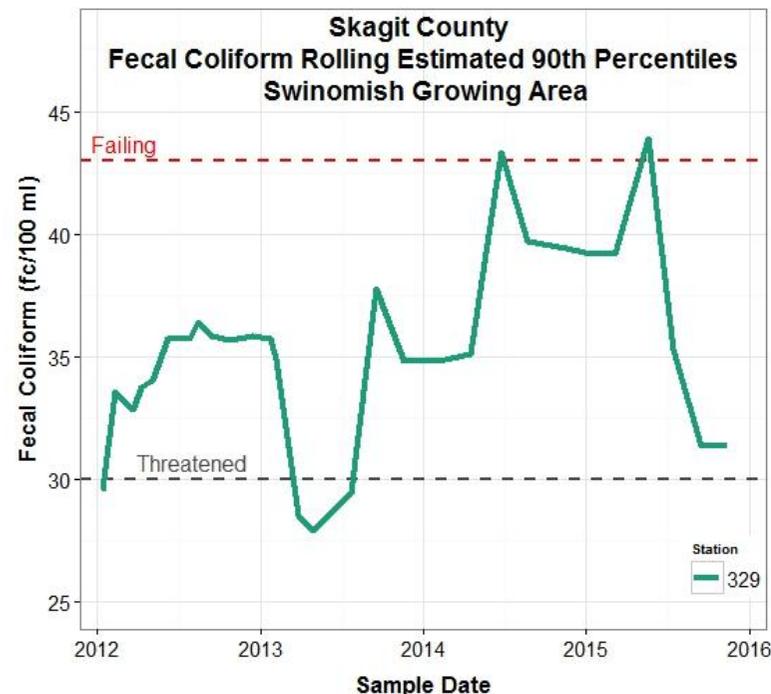
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Growing Area Annual Reports:

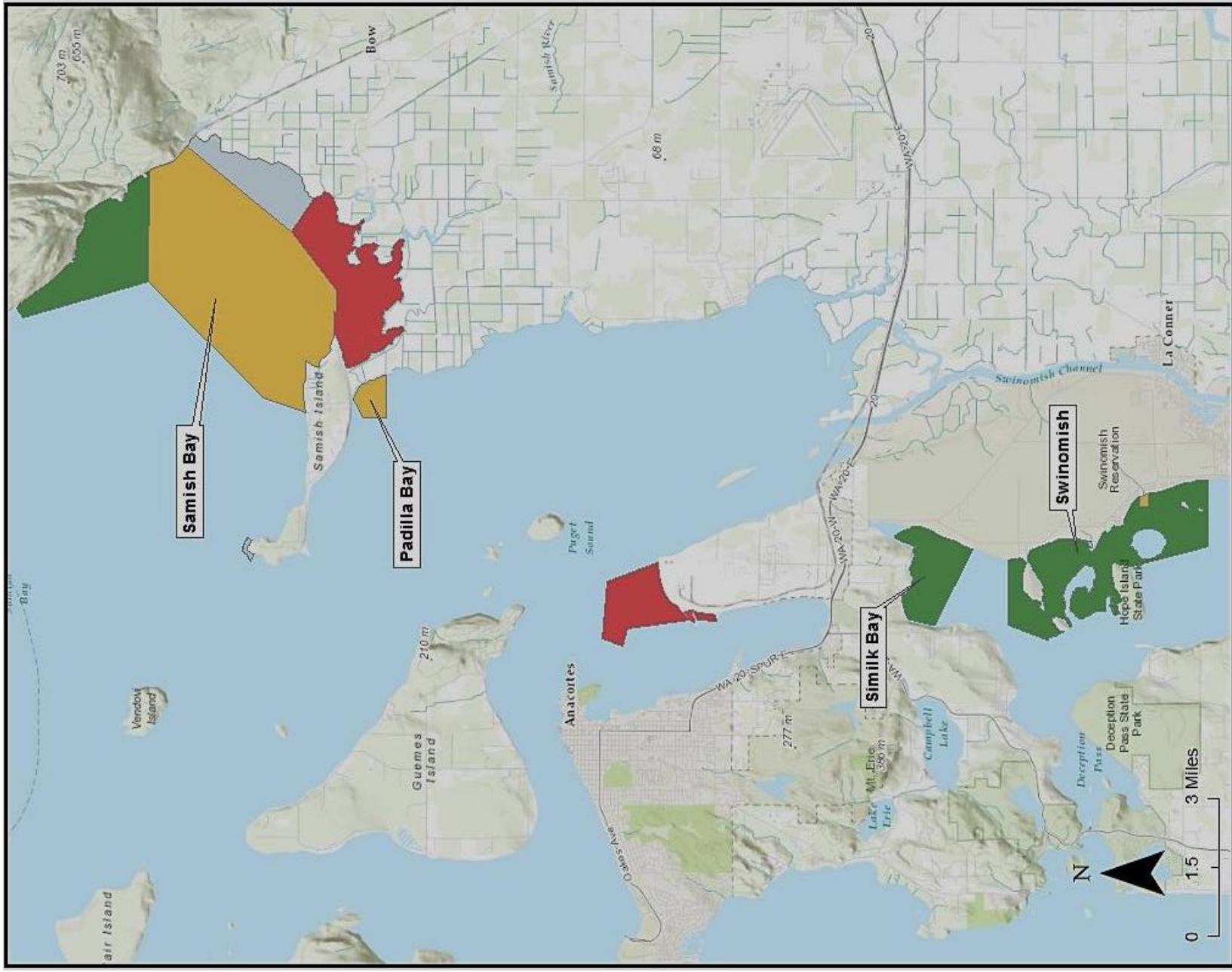
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Shellfish/GrowingAreas/AnnualReports>

Current Area Classifications & Water Quality

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/maps/OSWPViewer/index.html>



Skagit County Commercial Shellfish Growing Areas



For additional information please see the 2016 Annual Growing Area Reports at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Shellfish/GrowingAreas/AnnualReports>.

For the most updated information on commercial shellfish classifications and marine water quality, visit the interactive map based viewer at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/maps/OSWPViewer/index.html>.