
Washington State Department of Health
2009 Early Warning System Summary for
Shellfish Growing Areas in Mason County



The Department of Health (DOH) places shellfish growing areas in a “Threatened” or “Concerned” status based on our assessment of threats to the growing area’s classification. This assessment is currently based on the identification of pollution sources that may impact public health, and/or how close a water sampling station’s bacteria levels are to the National Shellfish Sanitation Program’s (NSSP) standards. The latter has been the most common and is described below.

The NSSP prescribes two methods to evaluate fecal coliform levels at water sampling stations to classify growing areas: Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) and Adverse Pollution Conditions (APC). Both use a minimum of the last 30 samples. With the SRS method, the 90th percentile cannot exceed 43 fc/100mL. With the APC method, no more than 10% of the samples can exceed 43 fc/100mL. If any of these standards are exceeded, no shellfish can be directly harvested from the area of that station.

A Threatened status is assigned in SRS growing areas when a water sampling station’s 90th percentile is between 30 and 43 fc/100mL. In APC growing areas, a Threatened status is assigned if more than 6.0% of the samples have exceeded 43 fc/100mL.

A Concerned status is assigned where a water sampling station’s 90th percentile is greater than 20, but less than 30. The DOH is providing this information to county governments so that corrective actions can take place before water quality at the listed stations fails the shellfish standards.

ANNAS BAY GROWING AREA

- Station Number 195 Concerns due to water quality
- Station Number 197 Concerns due to water quality
- Station Number 198 Concerns due to water quality

HOOD CANAL #6

- Station Number 218 Concerns due to water quality

HOOD CANAL #9

- Station Number 277 Threatened due to water quality

NORTH BAY GROWING AREA

- Station Number 1 Threatened due to water quality
- Station Number 7 Fails water quality standards

OAKLAND BAY GROWING AREA

Station Number 129 Threatened due to water quality

PICKERING PASSAGE

Station Number 57 Threatened due to water quality

Station Number 52 Concerns due to water quality

REACH ISLAND

Station Number 17 Concerns due to water quality

ROCKY BAY

Station Number 22 Concerns due to water quality