
Washington State Department of Health
2011 Early Warning System Summary for
Shellfish Growing Areas in Skagit 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.

PADILLA BAY GROWING AREA

Station Number 324	Threatened due to water quality
Station Number 323	Concerns due to water quality

SAMISH BAY GROWING AREA

Station Number 71	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 78	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 79	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 80	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 81	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 82	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 85	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 86	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 87	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 90	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 91	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 94	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River
Station Number 322	Failing due to water quality in the Samish River