

Burley Lagoon

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Burley Lagoon

Year Ending: December 31, 2023

Classification: Conditionally Approved, Restricted

Activities in the Growing Area in 2023

The growing area was sampled 12 times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. All samples were collected during the Open status. Station 337 was only sampled 11 times due to missing sample bottle during November. The Conditionally Approved portion of the growing area was closed five times for a total of 25 days due to rainfall (≥ 1 -inch in 24 hours). During June, 57 acres near stations 694 and 772 were reclassified from Restricted to Conditionally Approved due to improved marine water quality and pollution identification and correction in the watershed. Additionally, four acres near Station 334 was unclassified from the Conditionally Approved portion of the growing area due to unknown impacts from Purdy Creek. There was an approved relay from the Restricted portion to the Conditionally Approved portion and to the Totten Inlet Growing Area from November 1 through April 30 for manilla clams and oysters. The relay permits were no longer needed after the Restricted area was reclassified to Conditionally Approved.

A routine shoreline survey was conducted. Nonpoint pollution is considered an ongoing Indirect Impact to the growing area at drainages BL024, BL025, and BL026 (2023 shoreline survey report). Parcel 0122132009 adjacent to these drainages is already in Closed status due to historic elevated bacteria levels Site BL024.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce County Surface Water Management, Pierce Conservation District, Kitsap Public Health District and Kitsap Conservation District continued pollution identification and correction activities in the Burley Lagoon watershed. The Burley Lagoon Shellfish Protection District continues to meet quarterly.

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes the most recent 30 samples collected from each station. All stations meet the NSSP standard for an Approved classification. There are two rainfall events (Closed status) in the most recent 30 sample dataset. Additional data needs to be collected following rainfall greater than 1 inch to appropriately evaluate the classification of the area.

Change in Actual Pollution Sources that Impact the Growing Area

We currently have no information indicating the area has any 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 Conditionally Approved stations meet the NSSP water quality standard, and the area is correctly classified. Because limited rainfall-related sampling data was collected from 2021 through 2023, a special study that includes rainfall event sampling (exceeding 1 inch in 24 hours) should be completed prior to a classification change in the Conditionally Approved area. The Department should continue to work with Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce County Surface Water Management, Pierce Conservation District, and Kitsap Public Health District, and others to identify and correct sources of pollution in the Burley Lagoon watershed.

Management Plan Evaluation

1. Have all parties involved complied with the conditions of the management plan Yes
2. Has reporting been adequate to manage the conditional area..... Yes
3. Does the area consistently meet approved area criteria when it is open for harvest Yes
4. Has a field inspection of critical pollution sources been conducted Yes

TABLE 1. Summary of Marine Water Data (SRS) for the Burley Lagoon 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
331	Conditionally Approved	7/7/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 110.0	3.6	15.9	Y
333	Conditionally Approved	7/7/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 110.0	2.8	9.9	Y
334	Conditionally Approved	7/7/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 79.0	6.1	26.0	Y
335	Conditionally Approved	7/7/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 23.0	2.9	8.2	Y
336	Conditionally Approved	6/22/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 23.0	3.4	11.7	Y
337	Conditionally Approved	5/18/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 26.0	2.6	6.1	Y
338	Conditionally Approved	6/22/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 33.0	3.1	8.8	Y
339	Conditionally Approved	6/22/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 49.0	3.5	12.6	Y
340	Conditionally Approved	6/22/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 49.0	4.0	14.2	Y
342	Conditionally Approved	7/7/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 49.0	3.6	12.5	Y
343	Conditionally Approved	7/7/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 49.0	2.7	8.1	Y
344	Conditionally Approved	7/7/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 23.0	3.1	8.9	Y
694	Conditionally Approved	6/22/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 46.0	5.3	23.3	Y
772	Conditionally Approved	6/22/2021 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 33.0	5.5	19.6	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. Burley Lagoon Growing Area

