

Drayton Harbor

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Drayton Harbor

Year Ending: December 31, 2023

Classification: Approved, Conditionally Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2023

The growing area was sampled ten times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. Eight of the samples were collected during the Open status. An October sample event was missed due to boat and equipment issues. The Conditionally Approved portion was closed for a total of 92 days based on seasonal water quality conditions (closed November 1 to January 31). All the growing area was closed once for a total of six days due to greater than two inches of rain at the City of Blaine WWTP in 24 hours.

The Whatcom Clean Water Program, Whatcom County Public Works, and Whatcom Conservation District received National Estuary Program (NEP) funding for coordinating and implementing a pollution identification and control program in the watershed. Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) received NEP funding for enhanced water compliance monitoring and referral and technical assistance, with WSDA focusing on dairies and Ecology addressing nonpoint pollution stemming from nondairy agriculture. The Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District continued quarterly meetings.

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes the most recent 30 samples collected from each of the sampling stations. All stations in the Approved area meet the NSSP standard for an Approved classification. Stations 378, 379, and 413, which monitor the status of the Conditionally Approved areas, meet the Approved standard with all data. Station 428 only has 24 samples. Table 2 shows an APC evaluation of the last 15 samples collected from stations 378, 379, and 413, holding the sanitary line with the Conditionally Approved area during Closed status (November – January). These stations fail the APC standard for an Approved classification during Closed status.

Change in Actual Pollution Sources that Impact the Growing Area

We currently have no information indicating that the area has 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

All stations meet the applicable NSSP water quality standard and the area is correctly classified.

Management Plan Evaluation

1. Have all parties involved complied with the conditions of the management planYes
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 Drayton Harbor 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
3	Approved	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 110.0	3.5	14.7	Y
4	Approved	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 220.0	3.8	20.7	Y
5	Approved	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 33.0	3.0	9.6	Y
6	Approved	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 94.0	3.8	15.4	Y
12	Approved	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 17.0	2.8	7.4	Y
313	Approved	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 23.0	3.0	8.6	Y
314	Approved	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 23.0	3.1	9.2	Y
315	Approved	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 33.0	2.8	9.2	Y
428	Conditionally Approved	6/2/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 33.0	3.1	11.1	*N/A
8	Prohibited	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 79.0	8.7	51.5	N
11	Prohibited	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 27.0	3.3	10.8	Y
15	Prohibited	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 130.0	9.0	58.9	N
378	Prohibited	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 130.0	5.0	25.1	Y
379	Prohibited	1/6/2021 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 130.0	5.0	27.6	Y
413	Prohibited	12/9/2020 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 220.0	6.3	40.1	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.

*SRS criteria require a minimum of 30 samples from each station

TABLE 2. Summary of Conditionally Approved Marine Water Data (APC) during Closed Status for the Drayton Harbor Growing Area

Sampling Event Type: Regulatory

Maximum Number of Samples: 15

Tides Included: All

Includes data from the Closed period (November through January)

Station Number	Classification	Date Range	Range (FC/100mL)	Geomean (FC/100mL)	% Samples > 43	Meets Standard
378	Prohibited	1/24/2018 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 350.0	28.2	40.00	N
379	Prohibited	1/24/2018 - 12/12/2023	1.7 - 240.0	37.0	46.67	N
413	Prohibited	1/24/2018 - 12/12/2023	2.0 - 220.0	20.1	40.00	N

The above table shows bacteriological results in relation to NSSP criteria. NSSP standards for approved shellfish growing waters are a fecal coliform geometric mean not greater than 14 organisms/100 mL and not more than 10% of the samples exceeding 43 organisms/100mL.

MAP 1: Drayton Harbor Growing Area

