

Holmes Harbor

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



Prepared By: Liz Maier

Area: Holmes Harbor

Year Ending: December 31, 2024

Classification: Approved, Conditionally Approved

Activities in the Growing Area in 2024

All stations in the growing area were sampled at least six times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. Stations 193 and 402 in the Conditionally Approved area were sampled seven times, including six times when the area was in Open status. The Conditionally Approved area was closed for 92 days from June 1 through August 31 in accordance with the Conditionally Approved Area Management Plan.

A routine three-year shoreline evaluation was completed. No new or changes in pollution sources were identified that impact the growing area.

In the Conditionally Approved area, nearshore water quality at Freeland County Park has degraded in the summer when large piles of wrack accumulate on the beach. During the Washington BEACH Program's 2024 monitoring season at the park (late May through August), weekly averages of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) exceeded the Beach Action Value once on 7/9/2024. Water quality over the season met EPA's saltwater swimming standard.

Island County Public Health (ICPH) received EPA National Estuary Program funds for pollution identification and correction activities in the Holmes Harbor watershed.

The county collected fecal coliform samples and measured beach wrack at Freeland County Park over the summer and is assembling information to share with Department of Health. This data expands upon the nearshore samples collected in 2022 and 2023.

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes the results of the last 30 samples collected from the area. This summary shows that all stations pass the NSSP water quality standard.

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

Table 1 shows that all stations meet the NSSP water quality standard for an Approved classification and the growing area is correctly classified. The Department should evaluate 2024 nearshore sampling data along with the October 2022 to August 2023 results and determine if the Conditionally Approved classification is appropriate.

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 Holmes 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
194	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 110.0	2.3	6.4	Y
195	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.8	Y
196	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.8	Y
197	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 7.8	1.8	2.6	Y
198	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 13.0	1.9	3.2	Y
199	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.8	Y
200	Approved	12/9/2019 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 33.0	2.2	5.6	Y
201	Approved	12/9/2019 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 17.0	2.4	5.9	Y
280	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.8	Y
281	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.8	Y
282	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.9	Y
283	Approved	9/12/2016 - 12/2/2024	1.7 - 17.0	2.0	4.1	Y
193	Conditionally Approved	10/19/2020 - 11/18/2024	1.7 - 350.0	2.2	7.5	Y
402	Conditionally Approved	10/19/2020 - 11/18/2024	1.7 - 350.0	2.9	15.8	Y

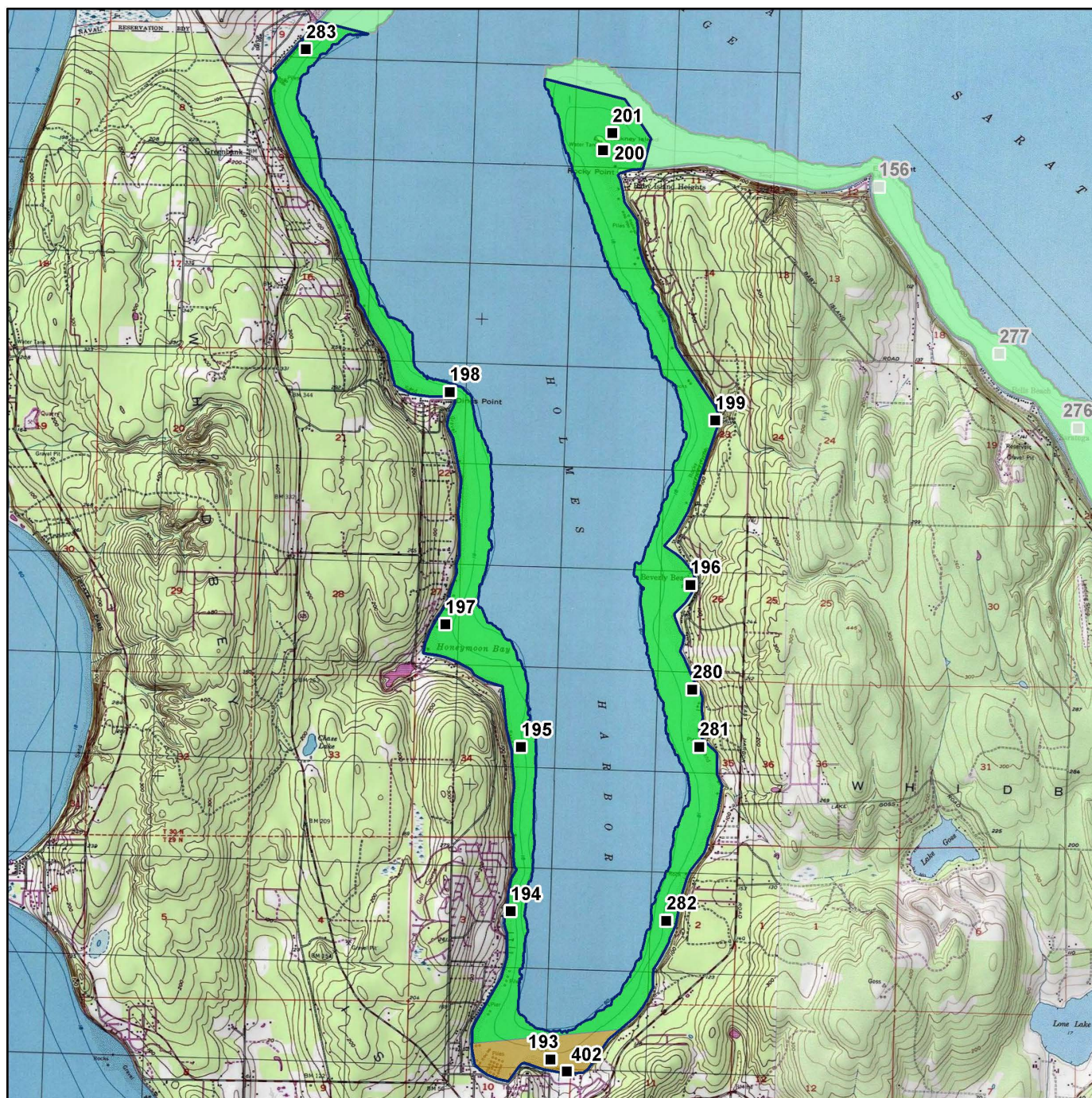
The standard for approved shellfish growing waters is fecal coliform geometric mean not greater than 14 organisms/ 100 mL with an estimated 90th percentile not greater than 43 organisms/ 100 mL. The above table shows bacteriological results in relation to program standards.

MAP 1. Holmes Harbor Growing Area






 Holmes Harbor

0 1.5 3 Miles

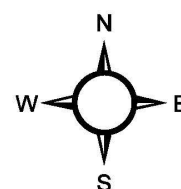
 Washington State Department of Health
Date Updated: 7/11/2018



Classification

-  Approved
-  Conditional
-  Prohibited
-  Restricted
-  Unclassified

Sampling Stations



* Some sampling stations are highlighted with grey box for ease of reading.