

Vaughn Bay

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Vaughn Bay

Year Ending: December 31, 2024

Classification: Approved, Conditionally Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2024

The growing area was sampled 12 times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. Eleven samples were collected during Open status in the Conditionally Approved area. The Conditionally Approved area was closed seven times for a total of 35 days due to rainfall (≥ 1 inch in 24 hours).

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

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes the most recent 30 samples collected from each of the sampling stations. Four of these samples were collected during Closed status (due to the rainfall condition). All stations meet NSSP standards for an Approved classification. Additional data must be collected following rainfall greater than 1 inch in 24 hours to evaluate the classification of the Conditionally Approved 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 stations meet NSSP water quality standards. Due to Prohibited stations meeting NSSP standards, the classification of the Prohibited area should be evaluated. More rainfall closure data should be collected to evaluate the classification of the Conditionally Approved area. The Department should continue to collaborate with Pierce County to identify and correct sources of pollution in the Vaughn Bay 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 Vaughn Bay 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
35	Approved	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 7.8	1.9	3.0	Y
607	Approved	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 4.5	2.0	3.0	Y
612	Approved	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.2	Y
613	Approved	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 23.0	2.2	5.0	Y
608	Conditionally Approved	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 79.0	3.0	9.8	Y
633	Conditionally Approved	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 13.0	3.0	7.6	Y
745	Conditionally Approved	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 130.0	3.3	11.4	Y
609	Prohibited	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 49.0	5.5	24.8	Y
610	Prohibited	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 79.0	3.5	12.0	Y
611	Prohibited	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 23.0	3.0	8.5	Y
650	Prohibited	7/27/2022 - 12/5/2024	1.7 - 46.0	3.0	9.3	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. Vaughn Bay Growing Area

