

Blake Island

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Blake Island

Year Ending: December 31, 2023

Classification: Approved, Conditionally Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2023

The growing area was sampled six times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. Three sampling events occurred during the Open status in the Conditionally Approved areas around mooring buoys. Boat observations were recorded during sampling, and there were increased numbers in the summer (July). The Conditionally Approved areas were closed for 153 days from May 1 through September 30 in accordance with the Conditionally Approved Area Management Plan.

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

The boat pumpout station at Blake Island Marine State Park remained out of service and unavailable due to issues with the park's large onsite sewage system (LOSS). A project to repair or replace the pumpout has been approved by the DOH LOSS Program. Marina reconstruction and installing a new pumpout system are proposed as part of the Blake Island Marine State Park Facility Improvement Project, but the project was not funded in the 2023-25 biennium. The park plans to restore pumpout service when the dock system is renovated, possibly after 2025.

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. The Department should track the Blake Island Marine State Park marina reconstruction project and potential impacts to the growing area.

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 Blake Island 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
398	Approved	1/7/2019 - 11/7/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.9	Y
399	Approved	1/7/2019 - 11/7/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.9	Y
401	Approved	1/7/2019 - 11/7/2023	1.7 - 33.0	2.0	4.3	Y
397	Conditionally Approved	1/7/2019 - 11/7/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.9	2.5	Y
400	Conditionally Approved	1/7/2019 - 11/7/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.2	Y
402	Conditionally Approved	1/7/2019 - 11/7/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.5	Y
686	Conditionally Approved	12/17/2018 - 11/7/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.9	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.

