

Blake Island

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Blake Island

Year Ending: December 31, 2021

Classification: Approved, Conditionally Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2021

The growing area was sampled six times in accordance with National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. Four samples were collected during the Open status in the Conditionally Approved areas. The Conditionally Approved areas were closed 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 meet the NSSP water quality standard.

Change in Actual Pollution Sources that Impact the Growing Area

The marina pumpout station at Blake Island State Park was still offline in 2021 due to maintenance issues. According to Washington State Parks staff, the pumpout will remain out of service until the renovation of the dock system occurs, possibly in 2025.

In December 2021, Washington State Parks announced that Tillicum Excursion (formerly Tillicum Village) at Blake Island Marine State Park would be closed in 2022. The concessionaire, Argosy Cruises, opted out of their longstanding agreement with State Parks due to challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time all Blake Island excursions provided by Argosy Cruises have ended, and currently the park is only accessible by private boat. State Parks is seeking input from potential partners to take over the concession in 2023.

Classification Status

- Well within the classification standards
- Meets standards, but some concerns
- 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 reevaluate the marina closure zone considering the extended outage of the state park's boat pumpout.

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/100 mL)	GeoMean (FC/100 mL)	Est. 90 th Percentile (FC/100 mL)	Meets Standard
398	Approved	1/5/2017 - 11/8/2021	1.7 - 7.8	1.9	2.9	Y
399	Approved	1/5/2017 - 11/8/2021	1.7 - 7.8	1.8	2.6	Y
401	Approved	1/5/2017 - 11/8/2021	1.7 - 33.0	2.0	4.3	Y
397	Conditionally Approved	1/5/2017 - 11/8/2021	1.7 - 4.5	1.9	2.7	Y
400	Conditionally Approved	1/5/2017 - 11/8/2021	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	Y
402	Conditionally Approved	1/5/2017 - 11/8/2021	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	Y
686	Conditionally Approved	12/7/2016 - 11/8/2021	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	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. Blake Island Growing Area

