

Blake Island

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Blake Island

Year Ending: December 31, 2022

Classification: Approved, Conditionally Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2022

The growing area was sampled six times in accordance with National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. Four sampling events occurred 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. The area contained within a 460-foot radius of the southern tip of Blake Island was closed for 21 days due to a sewage spill from a barge. A routine three-year shoreline evaluation was completed and no new or changes in pollution sources were identified.

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 Marine State Park was still offline in 2022 due to maintenance issues. In June, Anchor QEA completed a final predesign report for the Blake Island Marine State Park Facility Improvement Project. The project proposal is to reconstruct the marina within the existing footprint and make improvements to the adjacent upland area and boat launch. The project would expand moorage through a new dredge design and float layout, provide amenities including a new pumpout system, and improve safety and access in and around the marina.

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 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 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 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	2/26/2018 - 12/5/2022	1.7 - 2.0	1.8	1.9	Y
399	Approved	2/26/2018 - 12/5/2022	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.9	Y
401	Approved	2/26/2018 - 12/5/2022	1.7 - 33.0	2.0	4.3	Y
397	Conditionally Approved	2/26/2018 - 12/5/2022	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.5	Y
400	Conditionally Approved	2/26/2018 - 12/5/2022	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.2	Y
402	Conditionally Approved	2/26/2018 - 12/5/2022	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	Y
686	Conditionally Approved	11/27/2017 - 12/5/2022	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

