

Filucy Bay

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Filucy Bay

Year Ending: December 31, 2022

Classification: Conditionally Approved, Restricted, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2022

The growing area was sampled 12 times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) criteria. Eleven samples were collected during the Open status. The Conditionally Approved portion of the growing area was closed nine times for a total of 52 days due to rainfall (≥ 1 -inch in 24 hours). There is an approved relay from the Restricted portion to the Conditionally Approved portion for clams and oysters.

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 Filucy 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. More data needs to be collected following rainfall greater than 1-inch to appropriately evaluate the classification of the area. After removing Closed status data, Station 764 is categorized as Concerned with an estimated 90th percentile of 20.5 FC/100mL.

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 some concerns
- Meets standards, but threatened with downgrade in classification
- Fails to meet current classification standards

Remarks and Recommendations

Tables 1 shows that all stations meet the required NSSP water quality standards and the area is correctly classified. The Department should continue to work with Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce County Surface Water Management, Pierce Conservation District, and others to identify and correct sources of pollution in the watershed. Because limited rainfall-related sampling data was collected from 2020 through 2022, a special study that includes rainfall event sampling (exceeding 1-inch in 24 hours) should be completed prior to a classification change in the Conditionally Approved 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 Filucy 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
274	Conditionally Approved	8/10/2020 - 12/7/2022	1.7 - 240.0	2.9	12.4	Y
278	Conditionally Approved	8/10/2020 - 12/7/2022	1.7 - 350.0	4.5	32.0	Y
279	Conditionally Approved	8/10/2020 - 12/7/2022	1.7 - 240.0	4.3	26.6	Y
764	Conditionally Approved	8/10/2020 - 12/7/2022	1.7 - 350.0	4.5	38.2	Y
276	Prohibited	8/10/2020 - 12/7/2022	1.7 - 220.0	3.7	19.2	Y
275	Restricted	8/10/2020 - 12/7/2022	1.7 - 920.0	9.1	99.5	N

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. Fil Lucy Bay Growing Area

