

North Bay

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



Prepared By: Scott Chernoff

Area: North Bay

Year Ending: December 31, 2023

Classification: Approved, Conditionally Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2023

The growing area was sampled a minimum of six times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. Marine stations (1, 2, 11, 12, 871, 548, 7, 575, 9, 549, 550, 869, 870, and 762) near Allyn and within the Conditionally Approved and Prohibited areas were sampled 12 times. Stations 7, 548, and 575 in the Conditionally Approved area were sampled 10 times during Open status. The Conditionally Approved areas were closed four times for a total of 20 days due to rainfall (≥ 1 -inch in 24-hours). The entire growing area was closed once for seven days due to greater than three inches of rainfall in 24-hours.

A routine three-year shoreline evaluation was completed. Mason County Public Health and the Department sampled 144 drainages including 12 drainages in Allyn, evaluated 60 OSS, 4 agricultural sites, grinder pump stations, boating and wildlife activities. Three drainages discharging to the Prohibited area in Allyn continued to have elevated bacteria levels. No new or changes in pollution sources were identified.

Mason County received EPA National Estuary Program funds to implement pollution identification and correction activities identified in the North Bay pollution closure response 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 in Approved and Conditionally Approved areas pass the NSSP water quality standard; however, the Conditionally Approved areas only has five sampling events with rainfall exceeding 1-inch in 24 hours. Before a reclassification can be considered, more data following 1-inch of rain in 24 hours needs to be collected.

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 in the Approved and Conditionally Approved areas meet the NSSP water quality standards for an Approved classification and the area is correctly classified. Because limited rainfall-related sampling data was collected from 2021 through 2023, special studies that include rainfall event sampling (exceeding 1-inch in 24 hours) should be completed prior to a classification change. The Department should continue to collaborate with Mason County to identify and correct sources of pollution in the North 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 North 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
1	Approved	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 31.0	4.3	13.7	Y
2	Approved	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 49.0	3.5	11.8	Y
3	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 49.0	3.1	10.0	Y
4	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 79.0	3.2	12.4	Y
5	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 49.0	2.7	7.7	Y
6	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 13.0	2.6	6.0	Y
11	Approved	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 49.0	4.0	14.1	Y
12	Approved	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 49.0	4.1	14.4	Y
14	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 33.0	4.0	14.1	Y
15	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 17.0	3.7	11.1	Y
16	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 31.0	2.5	6.2	Y
551	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 33.0	2.2	5.6	Y
552	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 23.0	2.3	5.1	Y
553	Approved	1/24/2019 - 11/1/2023	1.7 - 31.0	2.3	5.3	Y
871	Approved	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 13.0	2.8	7.0	Y
7	Conditionally Approved	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 49.0	4.3	15.2	Y
548	Conditionally Approved	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 110.0	4.7	24.0	Y
575	Conditionally Approved	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 130.0	6.0	29.7	Y
9	Prohibited	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 33.0	3.6	11.1	Y
549	Prohibited	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 33.0	3.7	13.5	Y
550	Prohibited	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 130.0	4.9	20.2	Y
869	Prohibited	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 2500.0	16.1	191.1	N
870	Prohibited	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 46.0	4.0	14.8	Y
762	Unclassified	7/29/2021 - 12/13/2023	1.7 - 240.0	9.2	44.2	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. North Bay Growing Area

