

Padilla Bay

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Padilla Bay

Year Ending: December 31, 2024

Classification: Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2024

The growing area was sampled five times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. A sampling event in December was canceled due to inclement weather. The growing area will be sampled seven times in 2025 to compensate.

A routine three-year shoreline evaluation was completed, and no new or changes in pollution sources were identified. Reliability evaluations and inspections were completed for the Marathon and HF Sinclair Oil Refineries. No changes to the Prohibited area were needed.

Skagit County received National Estuary Program (NEP) funding for pollution identification and correction work, a human and agricultural tracer study, a social marketing project, and enhancing their septic operations and maintenance program. Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) received NEP funding for enhanced water compliance monitoring and referral and technical assistance, with WSDA focusing on dairies and Ecology addressing nonpoint pollution from nondairy agriculture. Washington State University Extension and the Skagit Conservation District received NEP funding to provide education and outreach resources and technical assistance to agricultural landowners.

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes the results of the last 30 samples collected from the area. This summary shows that both stations pass the NSSP water quality standard.

Change in Actual Pollution Sources that Impact the Growing Area

We currently have no information indicating that the area has 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 both stations meet the NSSP water quality standard for an Approved classification and the area is correctly classified.

TABLE 1. Summary of Marine Water Data (SRS) for the Padilla 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
323	Approved	10/2/2019 - 10/22/2024	1.7 - 23.0	2.6	7.9	Y
324	Approved	11/21/2019 - 10/22/2024	1.7 - 23.0	2.8	8.0	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. Padilla Bay Growing Area

