

Portage Bay

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Portage Bay

Year Ending: December 31, 2022

Classification: Approved, Conditionally Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2022

The growing area was sampled 10 times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling method. Seven samples were collected during Open status. The Conditionally Approved area was closed from September through December. In August, the Conditionally Approved Area Management Plan (CAAMP) was updated to include the month of September in the seasonal closed period due to poor water quality in the month of September.

The Whatcom Clean Water Program, Whatcom County Public Works, and Whatcom Conservation District received National Estuary Program (NEP) funding for coordinating and implementing a pollution identification and control program in the watershed. 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 stemming from nondairy agriculture. The Portage Bay Shellfish Protection District continued quarterly meetings.

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes the results of the last 30 samples collected from the area. It includes samples collected when the Conditionally Approved area was in Closed status. This summary shows that all stations meet the NSSP water quality standard for Approved classification with all data. Table 2 shows the last 30 samples collected from the Conditionally Approved stations during Open status (January – August). Table 3 shows an APC evaluation of the last 15 samples collected from the Conditionally Approved stations during Closed status (September – December). All of the stations in the Conditionally Approved area fail the APC standard for an Approved classification during Closed status.

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

Table 1 shows that all stations meet the NSSP water quality standard for an Approved classification. Table 3 shows that the Conditionally Approved stations do not meet NSSP standard during the Closed status, and therefore the area is correctly classified.

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 Portage 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
53	Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 33.0	2.4	5.4	Y
54	Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 33.0	2.5	7.5	Y
55	Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 49.0	3.0	9.2	Y
57	Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 49.0	2.3	6.4	Y
58	Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 17.0	2.6	6.5	Y
49	Conditionally Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 33.0	3.6	13.4	Y
50	Conditionally Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 220.0	4.9	28.8	Y
51	Conditionally Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 120.0	5.2	23.3	Y
52	Conditionally Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 79.0	3.9	14.8	Y
271	Conditionally Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 79.0	4.7	22.7	Y
272	Conditionally Approved	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 49.0	3.7	12.6	Y
48	Prohibited	5/12/2020 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 79.0	2.6	8.9	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.

TABLE 2. Summary of Conditionally Approved Marine Water Data (SRS) during Open Status for the Portage Bay Growing Area

Sampling Event Type: Regulatory

Maximum Number of Samples: 30

Tides Included: All

Includes data from the Open period (January through August)

Station Number	Classification	Date Range	Range (FC/100mL)	Geomean (FC/100mL)	Est. 90 th Percentile (FC/100mL)	Meets Standard
49	Conditionally Approved	8/15/2018 - 8/9/2022	1.7 - 49.0	3.3	12.1	Y
50	Conditionally Approved	8/15/2018 - 8/9/2022	1.7 - 49.0	4.0	17.1	Y
51	Conditionally Approved	8/15/2018 - 8/9/2022	1.7 - 49.0	4.4	16.7	Y
52	Conditionally Approved	8/15/2018 - 8/9/2022	1.7 - 130.0	4.3	18.7	Y
271	Conditionally Approved	8/15/2018 - 8/9/2022	1.7 - 110.0	3.4	14.9	Y
272	Conditionally Approved	8/15/2018 - 8/9/2022	1.7 - 79.0	3.7	15.4	Y

The above table shows bacteriological results in relation to NSSP criteria. NSSP standards for approved shellfish growing waters are a fecal coliform geometric mean not greater than 14 organisms/100 mL and an estimated 90th percentile not greater than 43 organisms/100mL.

TABLE 3. Summary of Conditionally Approved Marine Water Data (APC) during Closed Status for the Portage Bay Growing Area

Sampling Event Type: Regulatory

Maximum Number of Samples: 15

Tides Included: All

Includes data from the Closed period (September through December)

Station Number	Classification	Date Range	Range (FC/100mL)	Geomean (FC/100mL)	% Samples > 43	Meets Standard
49	Conditionally Approved	9/19/2019 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 110.0	8.2	13.33	N
50	Conditionally Approved	9/19/2019 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 220.0	9.2	20.00	N
51	Conditionally Approved	9/19/2019 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 170.0	7.6	26.67	N
52	Conditionally Approved	9/19/2019 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 130.0	5.9	20.00	N
271	Conditionally Approved	9/19/2019 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 130.0	9.0	20.00	N
272	Conditionally Approved	9/19/2019 - 12/14/2022	1.7 - 49.0	6.2	13.33	N

The above table shows bacteriological results in relation to NSSP criteria. NSSP standards for approved shellfish growing waters are a fecal coliform geometric mean not greater than 14 organisms/100 mL with not more than 10 percent greater than 43 organisms/100mL.

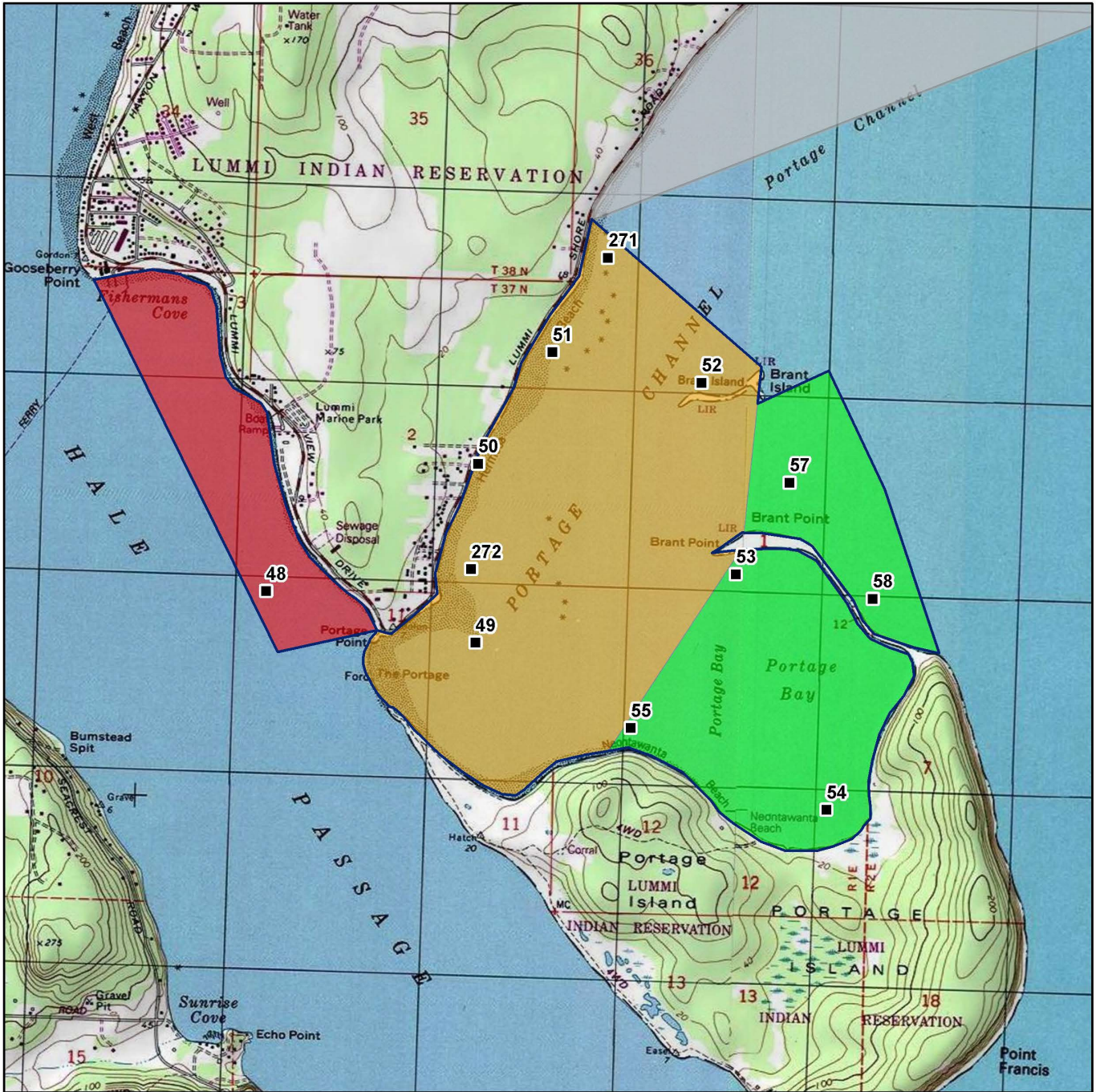
MAP 1. Portage Bay Growing Area

Portage Bay



Date Updated: 7/11/2018

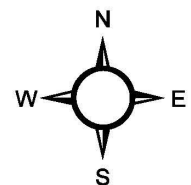
0 0.75 1.5 Miles



Classification

- Approved
- Conditional
- Prohibited
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Sampling Stations



* Some sampling stations are highlighted with grey box for ease of reading.