

Rocky Bay

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Rocky Bay

Year Ending: December 31, 2021

Classification: Approved, Conditionally Approved, Restricted, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2021

The growing area was sampled a minimum of six times in accordance with National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. Stations 21, 22, 25 and 780 were sampled 12 times. Eleven of the samples collected at Station 25 were collected during Open status. The Conditionally Approved area was closed six times for a total of 36 days due to rainfall (≥ 1 -inch in 24-hours). There is an approved relay from the Restricted portion to the Approved portion for oysters.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce County Surface Water Management, and Pierce Conservation District continued pollution identification and correction work in the watershed. The Rocky 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. All stations meet the NSSP standard for an Approved classification. However, there are only two samples in the dataset collected during rainfall closures in the Conditionally Approved area. Before a reclassification can be considered, more samples need to be collected following rainfall exceeding 1-inch in 24 hours.

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 standards for an Approved classification and the area is correctly classified. Because limited rainfall-related sampling data was collected from 2019 through 2021, 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 Pierce County to identify and correct sources of pollution in the Rocky 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 Rocky 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
19	Approved	1/18/2017 - 11/30/2021	1.7 - 33.0	2.4	6.2	Y
21	Approved	7/18/2019 - 12/20/2021	1.7 - 79.0	3.4	12.6	Y
23	Approved	1/18/2017 - 11/30/2021	1.7 - 49.0	2.7	8.3	Y
24	Approved	1/18/2017 - 11/30/2021	1.7 - 49.0	3.9	14.0	Y
26	Approved	1/18/2017 - 11/30/2021	1.7 - 94.0	2.4	6.7	Y
29	Approved	1/18/2017 - 11/30/2021	1.7 - 79.0	2.9	10.9	Y
34	Approved	1/18/2017 - 11/30/2021	1.7 - 7.8	2.2	4.0	Y
25	Conditionally Approved	7/18/2019 - 12/20/2021	1.7 - 220.0	4.9	21.2	Y
780	Prohibited	7/18/2019 - 12/20/2021	1.7 - 79.0	9.0	51.3	N
22	Restricted	7/18/2019 - 12/20/2021	1.7 - 120.0	6.8	33.4	Y
812	Unclassified	1/18/2017 - 11/30/2021	1.7 - 7.8	2.0	3.5	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. Rocky Bay Growing Area

