

Skagit Bay North

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Skagit Bay North

Year Ending: December 31, 2023

Classification: Approved

Activities in the Growing Area in 2023

The Department sampled the growing area six times in accordance with National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) criteria. The entire growing area was closed from 10:00 PM on December 5 to 9:30 AM on December 7 on a precautionary emergency basis due to potential Skagit River flooding.

The Skagit Conservation District and WSU Extension used National Estuary Program grant funds to continue education, outreach, and technical assistance programs for agricultural landowners in the area. 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.

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes results of the 30 most recent samples collected from each of the sampling stations. All stations meet the NSSP standard.

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 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 Skagit Bay North Growing Area

Sampling Event Type: Regulatory

Maximum Number of Samples: 30

Tides Included: All

Station Number	Classification	Date Range	Range (FC/100 mL)	GeoMean (FC/100 mL)	Est. 90 th Percentile (FC/100 mL)	Meets Standard
408	Approved	3/28/2019 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 79.0	4.6	24.1	Y
409	Approved	3/28/2019 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 130.0	4.0	21.3	Y
407	Unclassified	3/28/2019 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 170.0	4.7	25.2	Y
410	Unclassified	3/28/2019 - 12/4/2023	1.7 - 49.0	3.6	12.8	Y

The standard for Approved shellfish growing waters is a 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. Skagit Bay North Growing Area

