



Public Health Laboratories - Radiation, Shellfish Biotoxins, and Water Bacteriology Laboratories

June 2014

RCW 70.98 and 70.121 gives the Washington State Department of Health statutory authority over sources of ionizing radiation in the state. Funding for the Public Health Laboratories (PHL), Radiation Laboratory provides a world-class laboratory dedicated to identification and quantification of any radioactive source in any medium including air, water, soil, and food.

RCW 69.30, RCW 43.20.050, WAC 246-282, and negotiated treaties give the Washington Department of Health statutory authority to monitor shellfish and the water in which they are grown along state coastlines. The Shellfish Biotoxins Laboratory at the PHL is the only source of testing oysters, clams, etc., for Paralytic Shellfish Poisons (PSP or saxitoxins) and Amnesic Shellfish Poison (ASP or domoic acid) within the state. State funding and fees allow same-day testing of shellfish samples and illness investigations.

The Water Bacteriology Laboratory tests daily marine water samples collected from commercial growing areas and recreational beaches for sanitary quality and pollution source evaluation.

Services

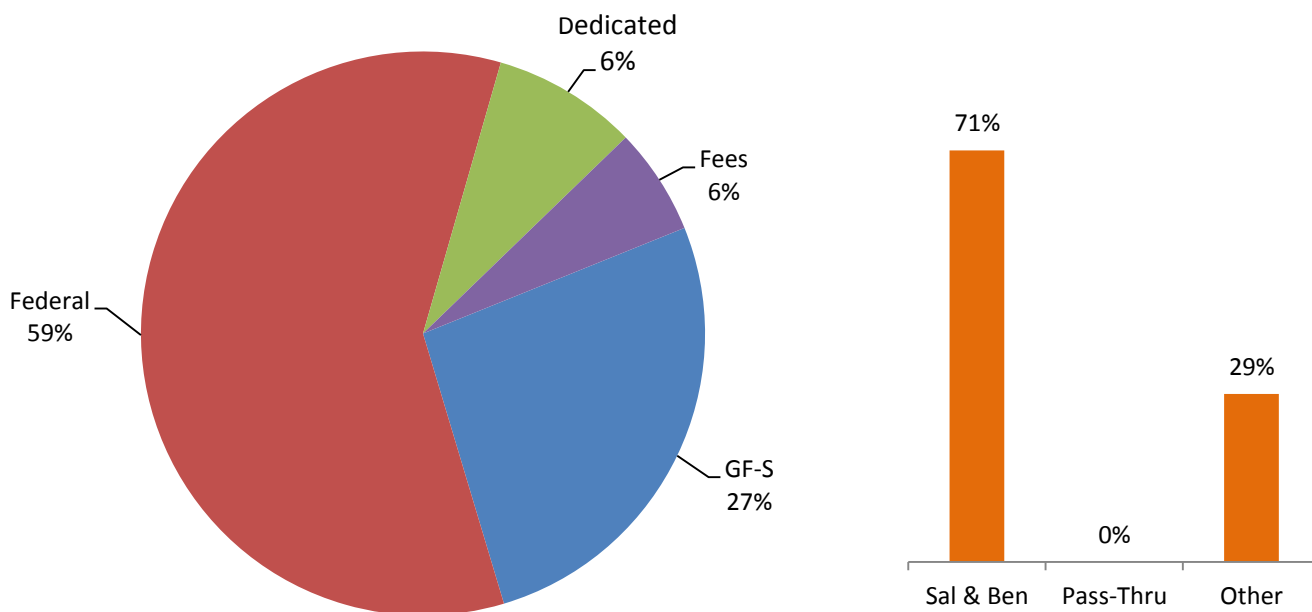
- The Radiation Laboratory: Analyze for up to 100 different radioactive elements in over 1,200 samples per year, such as air, surface water, well water, soil, sediment, sludge, vegetation, fruits, vegetables, milk, wine, animals, etc.
- The Shellfish Biotoxins Laboratory: Perform more than 3,000 tests per year for PSP, and over 1,500 for ASP
- The Water Bacteriology Laboratory: Analyze more than 12,000 samples per year for bacteriological contamination, reporting daily to the Shellfish Program
- All laboratories also develop and adapt new analytical methods as they are published

Stakeholders

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Citizens of and visitors to Washington
- Washington Department of Health Office of Shellfish and Water Protection
- Washington Department of Health Office of Radiation Protection
- The Native American Tribes of Washington
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- The commercial shellfish growers
- Hanford
- Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

2013-15 biennium

Radiation, Shellfish Biotoxins, and Water Bacteriology Laboratories Fiscal Information



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated	Fees	Total	Sal & Ben	Pass-Thru	Other
Total	1,548,000	3,455,000	486,000	358,000	5,847,000	4,176,000	0	1,671,000

Recent Funding History

2009-11 biennium:

- \$334,000 GF-S proviso funds for Puget Sound Partnership were reallocated to GF-S
- Ongoing GF-S reduction of \$323,000 in FY10 related to early saving bill (E2SHB 2921)
- One-time GF-S reduction of \$200,000 in FY11 for public health labs efficiencies

2007-09 biennium:

- One-time GF-S reduction of \$20,000 in FY09 in response to OFM’s request (ESHB 1694)

2011-13 biennium:

- Ongoing GF-S reduction of \$100,000 in response to OFM’s 10 percent reduction request