

Port Townsend

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



Prepared By: Liz Maier

Area: Port Townsend

Year Ending: December 31, 2023

Classification: Approved, Prohibited

Activities in the Growing Area in 2023

All marine water stations were sampled a minimum of six times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling criteria. Stations 205 and 206 were sampled six times from shore, and the rest of the stations were sampled seven times to make up for a missed sampling event during 2022.

A routine three-year shoreline evaluation was completed, and Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) collected samples at two drainages: PH016 and Irondale Creek. PH016 discharges into a Prohibited area in Port Hadlock. Irondale Creek enters Irondale Beach Park and flows onto Chimacum Creek Tidelands public beach near unclassified Station 187. Both drainages had periodic elevated bacteria levels, but no new or changes in pollution sources were identified.

An outbreak of avian influenza impacted seabirds and harbor seals on Rat Island starting in July 2023. In July, the Department issued a recreational shellfish harvest advisory for the Fort Flagler State Park beach due to the outbreak, warning harvesters to avoid contact with sick or dead birds.

JCPH received EPA National Estuary Program funds for OSS repair, replacement, and decommissioning/abatement in Irondale and Port Hadlock areas. The funds support a cost-share and grant program to assist low-income residents with OSS repairs. The County implemented pollution identification and correction work and an enhanced OSS operation and maintenance program in the region using Centennial Clean Water Grant and local assessment funding.

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes the results of the last 30 samples collected from the area. This summary shows that all 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 all stations meet the NSSP water quality standard for an Approved classification and the area is correctly classified. The Department should work with JCPH to determine if the emergency closure at Chimacum Creek Tidelands beach can be lifted.

TABLE 1. Summary of Marine Water Data (SRS) for the Port Townsend Growing Area

Sampling Event Type: Regulatory

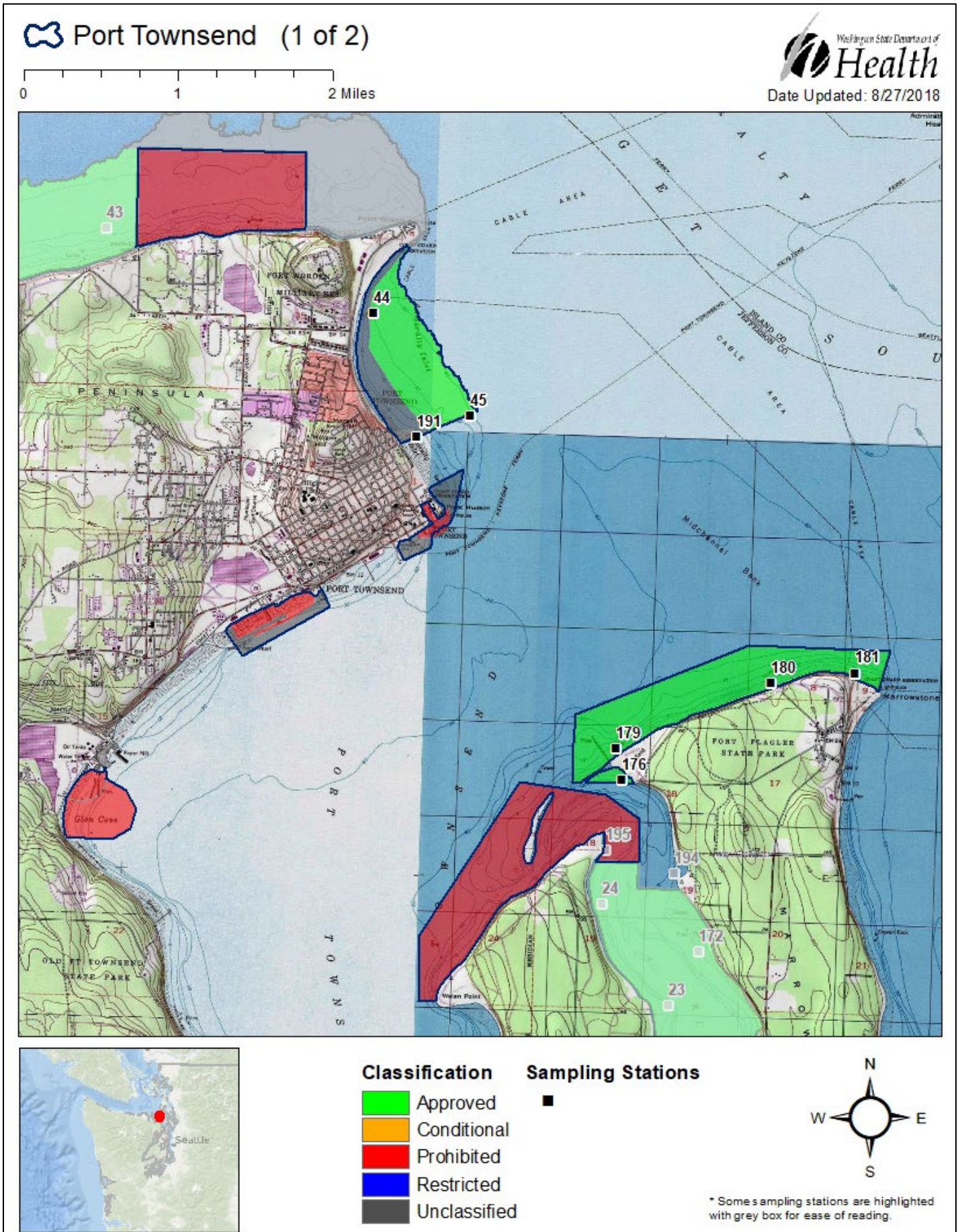
Maximum Number of Samples: 30

Tides Included: All

Station Number	Classification	Date Range	Range (FC/100mL)	Geomean (FC/100mL)	Est. 90 th Percentile (FC/100mL)	Meets Standard
33	Approved	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 7.8	1.9	2.8	Y
34	Approved	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.5	Y
35	Approved	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	Y
44	Approved	1/10/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 23.0	2.3	5.5	Y
45	Approved	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.8	Y
176	Approved	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	Y
179	Approved	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.9	Y
180	Approved	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.9	Y
181	Approved	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 2.0	1.7	1.8	Y
205	Approved	3/26/2019 - 12/21/2023	1.7 - 13.0	2.6	6.1	Y
206	Approved	3/26/2019 - 12/21/2023	1.7 - 49.0	2.9	9.9	Y
38	Prohibited	1/10/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 33.0	2.2	5.0	Y
39	Prohibited	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 17.0	2.2	4.6	Y
32	Unclassified	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 17.0	2.7	6.9	Y
40	Unclassified	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	Y
186	Unclassified	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 6.8	1.9	2.9	Y
187	Unclassified	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.9	2.7	Y
188	Unclassified	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 11.0	1.9	3.1	Y
191	Unclassified	1/29/2019 - 11/27/2023	1.7 - 11.0	1.9	3.0	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. Port Townsend Growing Area (1 of 2)



MAP 1. Port Townsend Growing Area (2 of 2)

