

Similk Bay

Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review



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Area: Similk Bay

Year Ending: December 31, 2023

Classification: Approved

Activities in the Growing Area in 2023

The growing area was sampled five times in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) criteria. One sampling event was missed due to boat/equipment issues. The area will be sampled seven times in 2024 to make up for the missed sampling event.

There was one precautionary flooding closure for the growing area on 12/5/23. The closure was based on the predicted condition of the Skagit River exceeding 30.3 feet; however, the river did not exceed that stage and the area was reopened immediately on 12/6/23.

Analytical Results of Water Samples

Table 1 summarizes results of the 30 most recent samples collected from the area. All stations in the Approved area meet the NSSP water quality standard. Stations 421 and 422 have 28 samples.

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.

TABLE 1. Summary of Marine Water Data (SRS) for the Similk 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
97	Approved	9/18/2018 - 12/11/2023	1.7 - 7.8	1.8	2.6	Y
98	Approved	7/17/2018 - 12/11/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	Y
99	Approved	9/18/2018 - 12/11/2023	1.7 - 13.0	2.2	4.4	Y
100	Approved	7/17/2018 - 12/11/2023	1.7 - 350.0	2.3	8.0	Y
101	Approved	9/18/2018 - 12/11/2023	1.7 - 33.0	1.9	3.9	Y
102	Approved	9/18/2018 - 12/11/2023	1.7 - 6.8	2.0	3.0	Y
104	Approved	9/18/2018 - 12/11/2023	1.7 - 6.8	1.9	2.8	Y
105	Approved	9/18/2018 - 12/11/2023	1.7 - 33.0	2.4	5.8	Y
96	Unclassified	9/18/2018 - 12/11/2023	1.7 - 4.5	1.8	2.3	Y
421	Unclassified	8/19/2019 - 10/24/2023	1.7 - 2500.0	3.5	37.6	*N/A
422	Unclassified	8/19/2019 - 10/24/2023	1.7 - 7.8	2.0	3.7	*N/A

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.

* N/A – SRS criteria require a minimum of 30 samples from each station.

MAP 1. Similk Bay Growing Area

