Measure 2.1: Supplemental - Increase improved shellfish classification acreage in Puget Sound from net increase of 3,038 acres in 2007-13 to net increase of 8,614 acres by 2016

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GOAL 3.2.1 - SHELLFISH

Department of Health

John Wiesman, Secretary
Maryanne Guichard, Assistant Secretary

January 8, 2016
Background: Overall water quality is improving

- Long term trends show improved water quality
- Poor water quality in Samish Bay and Portage Bay have masked this success

Moving the Needle

2015 Upgrades:
- Dungeness Bay + 700 acres
- Ketron Island + 200 acres
- King Co. (Midway) + 130 acres
**Current State:** We have the opportunity to improve water quality if barriers are addressed

- **Able to fix:** Non-complex watersheds (moving the needle)
- **Long-term fix:** Wastewater and stormwater outfalls
- **Opportunity:** Complex watersheds with nonpoint pollution sources (farms & septic tanks)

![Diagram showing pollution sources impacting acreage and acres opened by 2016 if barriers addressed.]

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**Shellfish Coordination Group**

[Logos of various organizations involved in shellfish coordination.]

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Why focus on Samish?


- Local engagement
- No clear answers
- Focused effort could help us statewide
Clean Samish Initiative

2011-2013:
• Fixed most of the problem

2014:
• Hardest problems left
• Little or no progress
Applying Your Lean Principles

1. Listen to the people who do the work
2. Have the difficult conversations
3. Find & fix root causes (not symptoms)
4. Act fast! Experiment! Take risks!
5. Keep improving
What we did

- HOTSPOTS
- MORE TESTING
- NEW MAPS
What we did

- HOTSPOTS
- MORE TESTING
- NEW MAPS
- WEEKLY IMPROVEMENTS
- BUSTING BUREAUCRACY
- STREAMWALKS
- APPROACH
- OUTREACH

- TEST
- FIND
- IMPROVE
- FIX

- MORE FIXES
- FASTER FIXES
- BETTER FIXES

OPEN BEDS
What did we learn?

Septics
- Value of local PIC program
- Need for sustainable funding for septics and PIC programs

Ag Best Management Practices
- Focus incentive programs where needed
- Landowner engagement and support is key to success
- Need for continued funding for BMPs

Impacts at the State Level
- Opportunities for collaboration – and tough conversations – have improved our work
- Local team welcomed our involvement
- We can impact problems that initially seems “beyond our control”
- Lean problem-solving works… even on tough, complex problems with real conflicts
Can this transfer to Whatcom County?

Assistance Needed:

- Support sustainable, local PIC and septic operation & maintenance (O&M) programs
- Support expanded, proactive engagement with ag producers, along with a strong regulatory backstop
- As continuous improvement reveals useful policy changes & resource needs… be ready for us to come to you!
Action Plan