Measure 2.1: Supplemental - Shellfish Acreage

MEASURE 2.1
SHELLFISH ACREAGE

Department of Health

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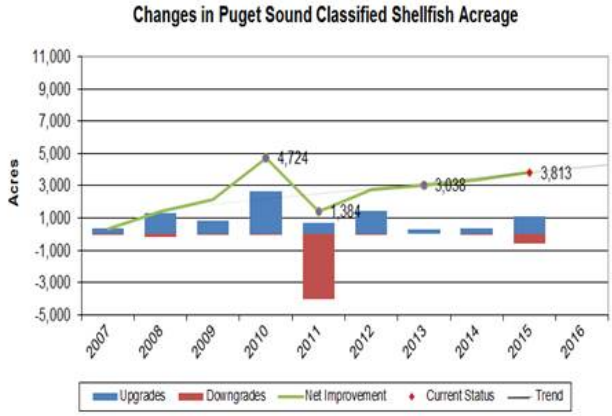
Director, Office of Environmental Health & Safety

July 11, 2016

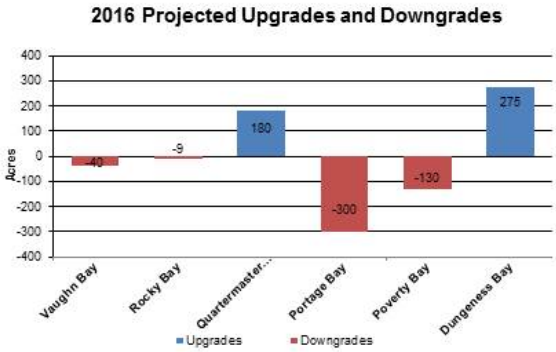
Background: *Water quality trends improving, but many barriers need to be addressed*

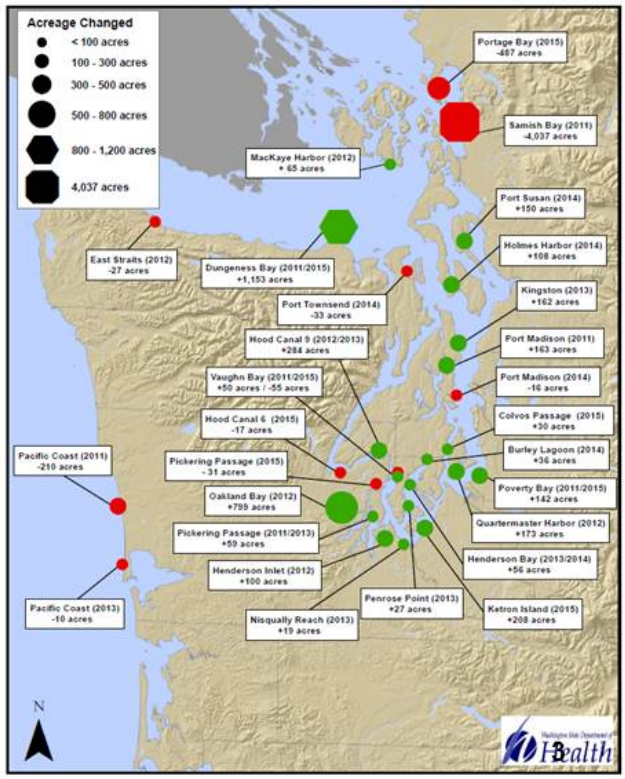


- Long term trends show improved water quality
- Large downgrades in Samish Bay and Portage Bay impact reaching the target

Current State: *Success in improving water quality*

- Partnerships lead to improved water quality
- Many successes over the years

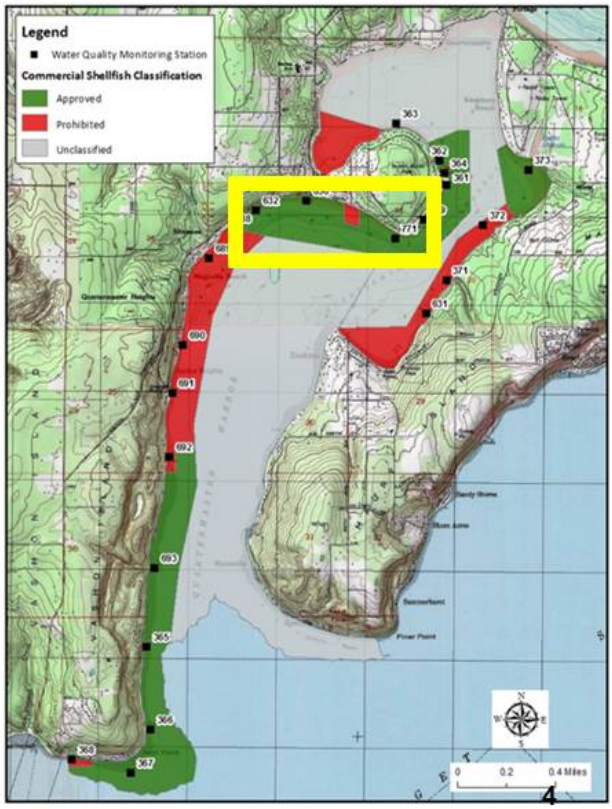




Success: *Quartermaster Harbor (King County)*

- 180 acre upgrade
- Efforts by Public Health Seattle & King County and the Puyallup Tribe lead to success

Quartermaster Harbor Growing Area
Reclassification



Measure 2.1
Increase improved shellfish classification acreage in Puget Sound from net increase of 3.038 acres from 2007-13 to net increase of 8.614 acres by 2016

Problem/Opportunity: *Samish Bay (Skagit County)*

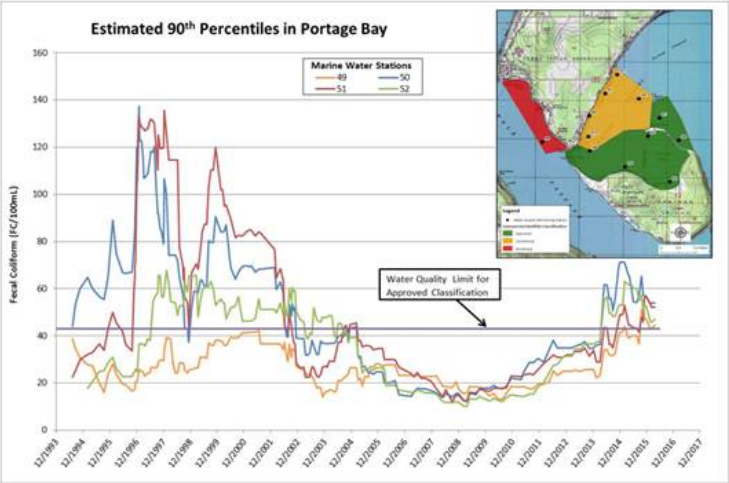
- 2016 – Significant drop in number of confirmed pollution closures
- Recent restoration activities appear successful. These activities must be sustainable
- Number of river rise closures reduced due to environmental conditions over the last two years

Samish Bay River Rise Closure Analysis (March - June)

Year	Days Closed to Shellfish Harvest	Number of River Rises Above Flow Trigger	Number of Confirmed Pollution Closures (load >4.7×10^{12} FC/day)
2012	37	16	10 (63% confirmed)
2013	31	14	8 (57% confirmed)
2014	27	15	9 (60% confirmed)
2015	13	4	3 (75% confirmed)
2016	7	5	1 (20% confirmed)

Measure 2.1
Increase improved shellfish classification acreage in Puget Sound from net increase of 3.038 acres from 2007-13 to net increase of 8.614 acres by 2016

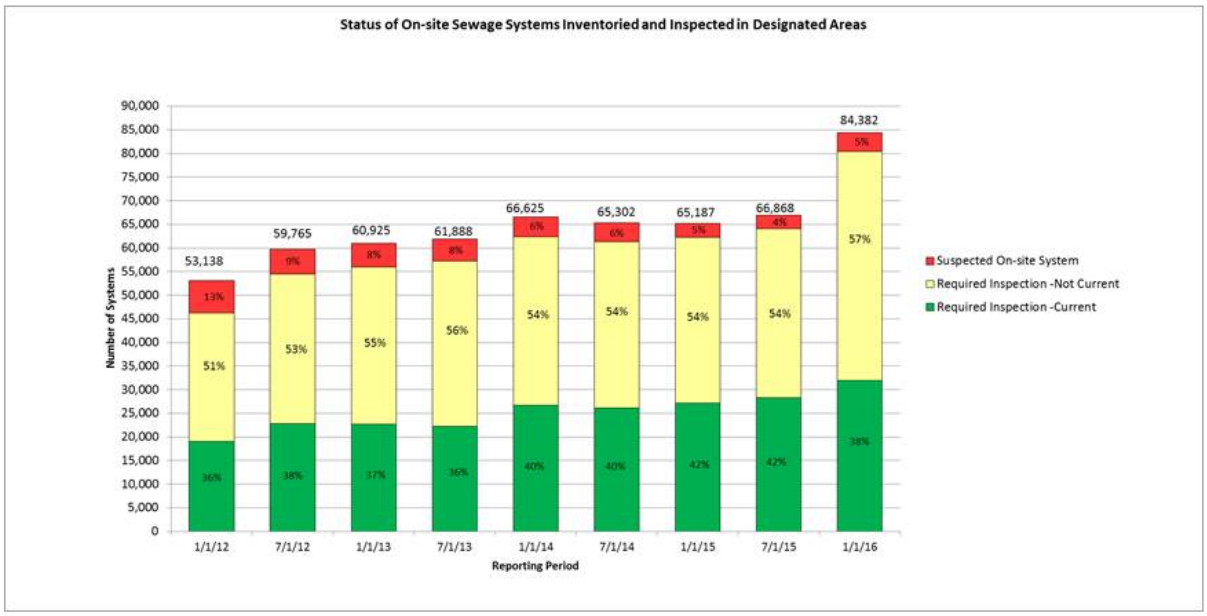
Problem/Opportunity: *Portage Bay (Whatcom County)*



- Downgrading 300 additional acres
- Progress is slow
- Current successes
  - *Establish expanded MRA*
  - *Better field coordination*
  - *Investments*

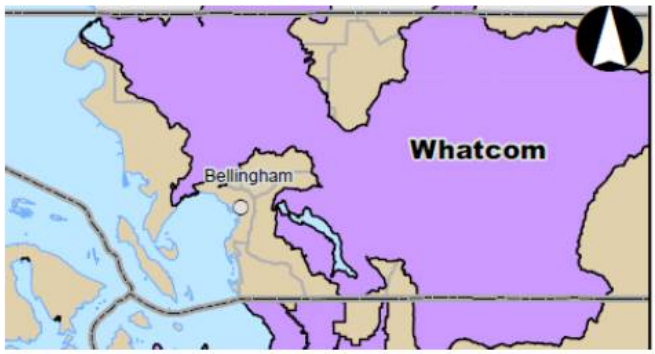
Measure 2.1.a
Increase percentage of inspections that are current for on-site sewage systems in marine recovery areas and other specially designated areas from 37% to 50% by 2016

Current State: *More systems are being inspected, and problems are getting fixed*



Problem/Opportunity: *Sustainable funding for septic management programs*

- Proposed HB 1715 in the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions
- Working with local boards of health to adopt septic fees
  - King County
  - Thurston County
  - Jefferson County



RESULTS WASHINGTON

2.1.B / AG BMP

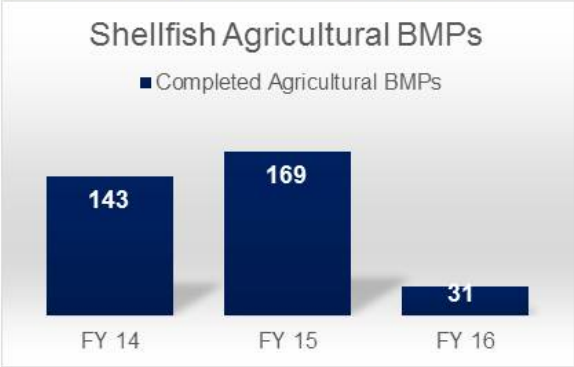
Ron Shultz, Policy Director

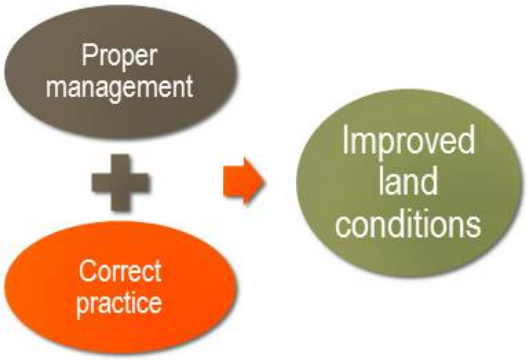
Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)

July 11, 2016

Washington State Conservation Commission

Background: Implementing best practices to protect shellfish by reducing agricultural inputs.





Agricultural activities can impact shellfish resources:

- Unmanaged runoff into streams inputs nutrients.
- Animal access to stream bank can lead to vegetation loss and erosion.
- Improper manure application to fields can lead to runoff.

2.1.b. Increase the number of agricultural BMPs

Current State: CDs are assisting landowners to implement BMPs.

Funding to implement BMPs:

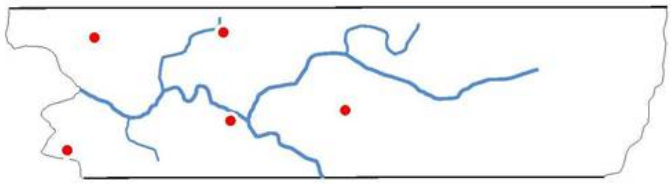
- 2013-15: $4.5 million
- 2015-17: $4 million

To date, 343 BMPs have been implemented in the 14 shellfish counties.

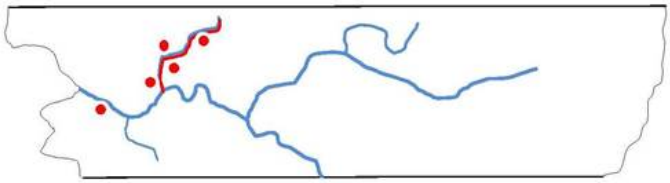
- *Funding originally provided in response to Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification (OA) recommendations.*
- *After legislative process, funding balanced between OA and shellfish closure.*
- *SCC staff recognized at the beginning the need to implement in a targeted approach.*
- *Since inception, funding requests had to meet OA or shellfish harvest criteria, be identified on maps, and linked to local coordinated activities.*

Problem/Opportunity: More targeted BMP implementation could lead to measurable resource improvements.

Current State



Targeted Approach



Problem:

- Number of BMPs implemented tells us the amount of work done, but not whether done in the right place.

Solution:

- Target BMP implementation to the areas with known resource concerns.

2.1.b. Increase the number of agricultural BMPs

Strategies: Focus on resource concerns with targeted outreach and assistance.

Targeted Outreach Approach:

- Identify resource concern;
- Identify key parcels;
- Provide assistance;
- Assist funding practice.

Identify Resource Concern:

- Partner with resource agencies, local gov't, tribes, NGOs.
- Data on water quality.

Identify Key Parcels:

- CDs conduct landowner outreach.
- Use assessment tools.

Provide Assistance:

- CD staff help landowners with options.
- Landowner develops plan.

Assist Funding Practice:

- Existing programs coordinated to focus fiscal resources.

2.1.b. Increase the number of agricultural BMPs

Detailed Action Plan:

Task	Task Lead	Partners	Expected Outcome	Status	Due Date
Identify Resource Concerns – Identify pilot areas (2-3)	SCC	Shellfish Coordination Group (SCG); counties, CDs, tribes	Two or three geographic areas identified as pilot areas for implementation.		Dec 2016
Identify Resource Concerns – Data compiled to I.D. key resource concerns area.	SCC	SCG; counties, CDs, tribes	Key areas identified based on data reflecting resource parameters.		Dec 2016
Identify Key Parcels – Engage with CDs to develop parcel identification and outreach approach.	SCC	CDs, SCG	Standardized approach for parcel-based outreach is developed.		May 2017
Identify Key Parcels – Engage with CDs in pilot areas to implement parcel identification approach.	SCC	CDs, SCG, counties	CDs in pilot areas are engaged and are implementing the parcel-based outreach approach.		Sept 2017

2.1.b. Increase the number of agricultural BMPs

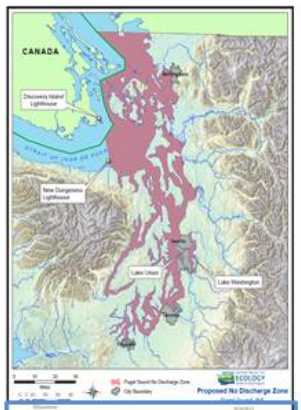
Detailed Action Plan:

Task	Task Lead	Partners	Expected Outcome	Status	Due Date
Provide Assistance – CD staff in pilot areas are providing assistance to landowners.	SCC	CDs, SCG, counties	CDs have identified a list of key parcels and are engaging with landowners and tracking progress.		Sept 2017 – ongoing
Provide Assistance – Pilot program is expanded to other counties.	SCC	CDs, SCG, counties	Parcel outreach approach is expanded to at least 8 other counties.		July 2018 - ongoing
Assist Funding Practice – Funding for BMPs is coordinated in pilot counties.	SCC	SCG, federal agencies, counties, CDs, tribes	Coordination approach is developed and implemented in pilot counties.		Sept 2017 - ongoing
Assist Funding Practice – Funding for BMPs is coordinated in other counties.	SCC	SCG, federal agencies, counties, CDs, tribes	Coordination approach is implemented in at least 8 other counties.		July 2018 - ongoing

Assistance Needed:

- Continued engagement of the Shellfish Coordination Group.
- Support from resource agencies to provide needed data for area identification.
- Additional funding for implementation. Re-purpose existing funds?
- Legislation to provide policy authority for the approach.

No Discharge Zone



NDZ = Designated area where both treated and untreated sewage from vessels cannot be discharged

- **Taking the risk away from vessel sewage discharges to sensitive resources**
- **Preventable pollution source, pathogens – protect water quality and public health; estimate at least 500 acres of shellfish beds to be opened**
- **Follows other large investments in Puget Sound (sewage, stormwater, ag runoff, etc)**
- **More than 90 NDZs in 26 states, none in EPA Region 10**
- **4.5 years of research, stakeholder outreach, modeling, 10 evaluation reports, draft petition – great support**
- **Delayed implementation for certain commercial vessels to spread retrofit costs; pumpout grants for commercial vessels**
- **Anticipate Final Petition Submission to EPA Region 10, summer 2016**

Draft CAFO Permit

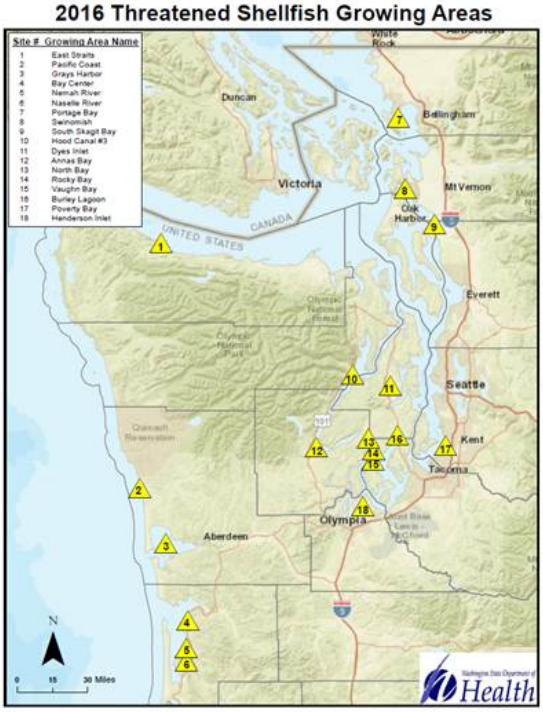
- Two Permits: Combined and State Only - Conditional authorization to discharge
- Increases environmental protection
  - Expands facilities covered by a permit
  - Requires adaptive management and soil sampling tying manure application to crop needs
  - Winter manure application restrictions
- Builds on existing frameworks and programs (RCW 90.64)
  - Dairy Nutrient Management Program
- Increases cross agency coordination for implementation
  - Ecology CWA authority:Agriculture statute and expertise industry
  - Works to streamline state government for implementation
- Adaptive Management key attribute in approach
  - No groundwater monitoring or lining of lagoons proposed in this permit
  - Lagoon assessment required in first two years to inform level of risk and therefore subsequent steps

Opportunities Moving Forward

- Advance Best Management Practices (BMPs) implementation to help manage animal waste
- Create sustainable local nonpoint pollution programs
- Regulate of boaters' waste
- Sustain on-site sewage system management and repair programs
- Plan and manage wastewater treatment plant outfalls to Puget Sound

Memorandum of Agreement

2016 Threatened Shellfish Growing Areas



- State partners respond together to threatened and failing marine water quality
- Assist local governments in organizing and implementing coordinated projects

Questions?

Washington State Department of Health