Measure 2.1: Supplemental - 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

GOAL 3.2.1 - SHELLFISH

Department of Health

Marianne Guichard
Assistant Secretary

July 13, 2015
Goal 3.2.1 Increase shellfish acreage by 5576 acres

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
- We’re at almost 3,000 acres and must upgrade Samish Bay to achieve our goal of almost 9,000 acres by 2016

Current State: We have the opportunity to improve water quality if barriers are addressed

- Opportunity in the short term is to focus on nonpoint pollution sources like farms and septic systems
- Making progress with wastewater and stormwater outfalls is a longer term strategy
- Must overcome our barriers to achieve our goal
Goal 3.2.1 Increase shellfish acreage by 5576 acres

At this point, we are not on track to make it: Redoubling our efforts to get there

Shellfish Coordination Group:

- Coordinating the state family on non-point bacterial pollution
- Tackling specific challenges to find effective, on-the-ground solutions
- Problem-solving approach

Why focus on Samish?


- 4000 of the 5500 acres needed
- Clean Samish Initiative
- A lot of early progress improving water quality, recent lagging
- Needed a boost
- Engaged partners
“Business-as-usual”
- Lack of coordination
- Distrust
- Solutions w/o seeing the real problem
- Activity w/o impact

Lean tools & approach
- Voice of the Customer
- Mud on boots
- Fix root cause, not symptoms
- Bust silos
- Real-time change

New energy & results
- One team
- One plan
- Energy
- Excitement
- Surface real problems
- Open up new possibilities

TEAM AT WORK
Root Cause Analysis
(no finger-pointing)

Action Planning
(samples)
**Action Plan – Tracking**

“Business-as-usual”
- Lack of coordination
- Distrust
- Solutions w/o seeing the real problem
- Activity w/o impact

+ Lean tools & approach
- Voice of the Customer
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= New energy & results
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- Open up new possibilities
Da Team

Goal 3.2.1 Increase shellfish acreage by 5576 acres

The Samish Story – 90 Days of Discovery

- Great energy & new resources found
- Setting goals = greater accountability
- New team members = new energy
- Access problems
- Be positive & have some fun!

Measure 1: Ecology & WSDA Activity
- 15 Ok-no further action
- 14 Evaluations in process
- 8 properties need fixing
- 6 livestock still evaluated

Measure 2: Skagit CD Activity
- 2 referred to Health Dept
- 1 Fix complete
- 16 properties in process
- 1 Fix not started
- 11 FCW/ESC managed
- 10 Referred to CD
- 4 in process (3 to 5 months out)
- 4 No contact with CD

Measure 3: Up to Date Septic System Inspections in Focus Areas
- Goal: All 486 inspected

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What we learned – at the county

- Everyone likes and needs maps
- Focus your efforts
  - Based on water quality
  - Highest risk/confirmed sources
  - More outreach to “hotspots”
- Set goals & meet regularly

Moving forward in the Samish

- Expand mapping capacity
- Improve tracking of efforts
- Research
  - Beaver dams
  - New ways to track pollution
- Improve partner’s access to data
- Revise county OSS code
- Workshop in September to plan for next rainy season
What we learned – at the state level:

- Value of the problem-solving approach ("A3’s")
- Importance of “lining up the dominoes”
- Critical need for tough conversations
- There are more resources then we know
- Unanticipated returns from inter-agency work (ride-alongs)

Can this transfer to Whatcom County?

Portage Bay, 1994-2015

Getting steadily worse for the last 5 years

Amazing success
What we learned – at state agencies:

- Collaboration among state agencies
- Collaboration between state, county & CD
- From a bunch of people working on a problem… to a team
- The hard work of building landowner engagement
- The power of simplicity & focus

Assistance Needed:

- Continue the Shellfish Coordination Group
- Continue support for the on-going work in the Samish
- Support expansion into Whatcom County
- Provide support as these efforts uncover useful policy changes and resource needs
Goal 3.2.1 Increase shellfish acreage by 6576 acres

Samish River from Thomas Road Bridge

Action Plan