



Water Quality

2019

FACT SHEET

Brinnon Area Water Quality Update

Quick Terms

E. coli and ***Enterococcus*** = two specific forms of fecal bacteria

Fecal bacteria = bacteria associated with the feces from warm-blooded animals

High Hits = sample results greater than 100 MPN/100mL for *E. c*

Hot Spots = geometric mean (average) of all samples is > 320 MPN/100mL for *E. coli* or a single sample > 1000 MPN/100mL

MPN/100mL = Most Probable Number (a statistical probability of the number of organisms) per 100mL; a measure of the amount of *E. coli* or *Enterococcus* in a sample

Central Hood Canal Pollution Identification & Correction Project News

Jefferson County Environmental Public Health (JCEPH) has just completed three seasons of shoreline water quality monitoring from Dosewallips River to the Triton Cove area. We monitored *E. coli* bacteria over the winter season, while the Washington State Department of Health (WADOH) continued monthly monitoring for *Enterococcus* bacteria in the nearshore marine waters for much of the area.

Sampling results to date

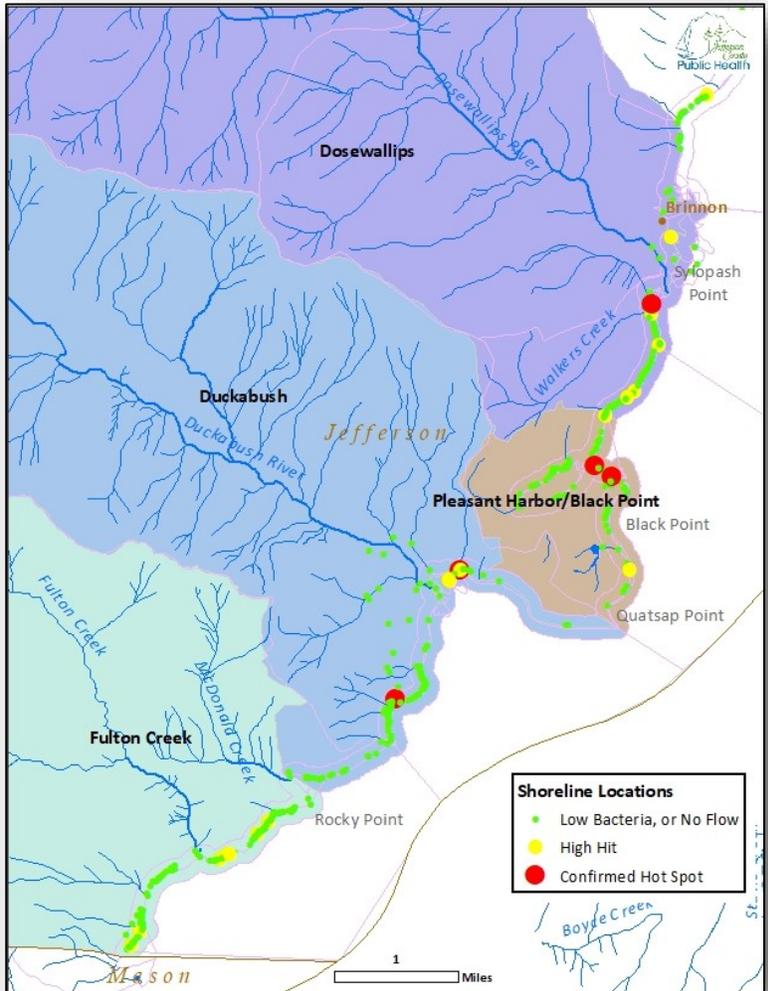
The map below represents the cumulative results for all monitoring. In the first winter season of monitoring from 2017-18, we identified six locations with high levels of bacteria (or "High Hits" - see sidebar) and two locations that we considered "Hot Spots" (see sidebar) both off of Rhododendron Lane on Black Point. In the summer of 2018, seven High Hits and two more Hot Spots were identified in the Duckabush Basin. In this most recent winter of sampling, we found eight High Hit sites and one Hot Spot just south of the mouth of the Dosewallips River.

WADOH marine monitoring in the Dosewallips and Duckabush areas showed worsening trends at the mouth of the Dosewallips River but improvements at several other stations within the Dosewallips and Duckabush estuaries, including at the mouth of the Duckabush River. Commercial shellfish beds (and likely recreational as well) will remain closed from May to October at the mouth of the Duckabush for the time being, but hopefully the State will be able to reopen the area if their sampling results continue to improve.

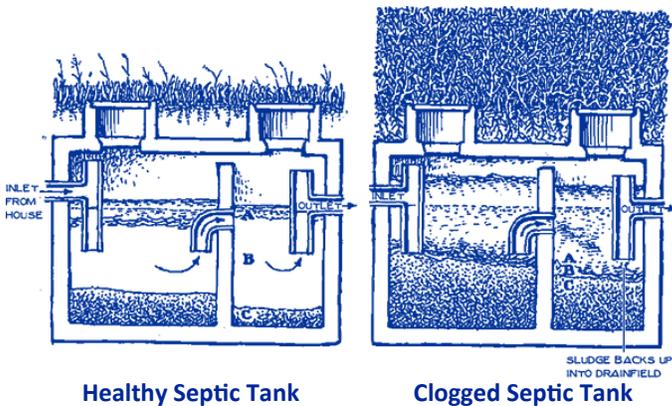
During the past year, JCEPH and WADOH conducted many sanitary surveys and a number of sanitation concerns in the basin have been addressed. Several outhouses in the floodplains as well as other unpermitted septic systems were decommissioned. JCEPH will continue work through the summer of 2019 and wants to encourage everyone to get their septic systems current with their operations and maintenance (O&M) inspection.

Spring O&M classes are over but will be offered again in the fall. Qualifying homeowners can still become authorized to inspect their own system by taking the class online. To find out more visit our website: www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org under the links for: Environmental Public Health/Septic Systems/Resources for Homeowners

Rebate funds for O&M inspections have been exhausted but we hope to see additional funding to support the rebate program later this summer. Call or check our website for details.



Onsite septic systems shouldn't be ignored ... or else you are in for some expensive repairs! Get your system regularly inspected.



Protecting human health & shellfish beds

How can you protect water quality this summer?

Pick Up After Your Pet

It may seem tempting to just ignore your pet waste when you are in rural areas but dog waste has more fecal coliform than human waste, and can also carry viruses, tapeworms, giardia, and other pathogens. Also, several years ago, a Microbial Source Tracking study determined that pet waste from dogs was a significant contributor to bacterial pollution in Dungeness Bay, so we know that pet waste can have an impact on water quality in rural areas.

Rain washes pet waste right into our roadside ditches, streams, and rivers ... all of it leading to Hood Canal and contributing to the build up of bacteria and excess nutrients in our local waters. We will see more shellfish closures and harmful algae blooms if we aren't working to protect our local waters.

Be a good steward and clean up after your pets. Dog waste in compost can carry a number of unhealthy parasites that are not eliminated by the composting process. The simplest thing you can do is **scoop it, bag it, and place it in the trash!**

