

Brinnon Area Water Quality Update

Quick Terms:

Fecal coliform

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

cfu/100 ml = colony forming units per 100 ml; a measure of fecal coliform bacteria in a sample

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

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

High Hits = sample results greater than 100 MPN/100ml for *E. coli*

Hotspots = geometric mean (average) of all samples is > 320 MPN/100ml for *E. coli* or a single sample > 500 MPN/100ml

Central Hood Canal Pollution

Identification & Correction Project News

Over the last year, Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) has been conducting monitoring in the Dosewallips River to Triton Cove area. We looked at fecal coliform bacteria in rivers and streams, *E. coli* bacteria along the shoreline in the wet and dry season, and *Enterococcus* bacteria in the marine environment during the summer months (coinciding with the State Shellfish closure at the Duckabush). JCPH coordinated this effort with the Washington Dept. of Health (DOH), which has also continued to do monthly (Duckabush) and bi-monthly (Dosewallips, etc.) monitoring of the marine nearshore for fecal coliform bacteria. Both JCPH and DOH have been doing sanitary surveys to check on the status of septic systems and talking to homeowners about how to maintain these systems.

Results from the 1st year of the project

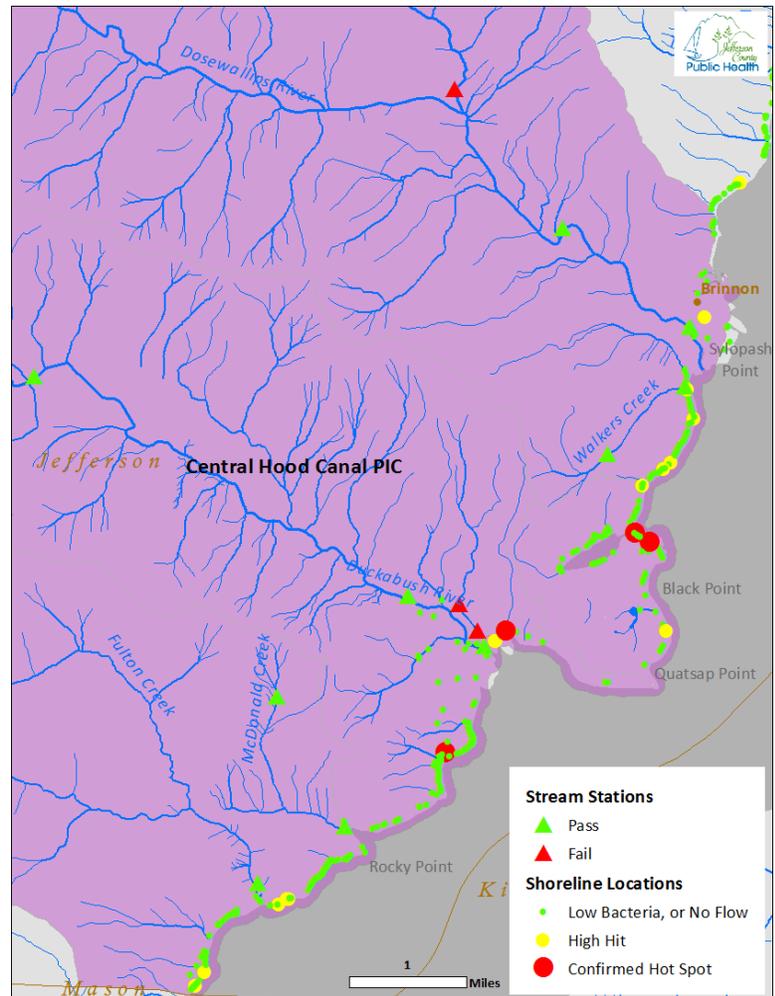
Monitoring along the shore found 8 sites that were high hits (see sidebar) in winter and two hotspots (see sidebar) for *E. coli* bacteria (both on Black Point). In summer, we had 14 high hits, and two (different) hotspots for *E. coli* (in the Duckabush area).

All JCPH results for stream stations passed

State water quality standards in winter but in summer, when the shellfish closure occurred, four stations failed the standard. These include two Pierce Creek stations in the Duckabush Basin and two stations in the Dosewallips Basin—Rocky Brook and Dosewallips at river mile 9.5. Seals often get blamed for high bacteria levels but these stations would not have been impacted by seals. Often it was a single high reading of bacteria that caused these stations to fail the standard. For example, at Dosewallips 9.5, a site that was usually low in bacteria, a single sample with 730 cfu/100 ml was seen in July. This sample location was near a rustic campsite with evidence of heavy summer usage and open human defecation near the river (check the reverse side of this flyer regarding tips for leaving no trace when in the back country).

JCPH's marine monitoring results for *Enterococcus* all came back low, showing only slightly elevated levels at some sites in August and September, but DOH had high fecal coliform levels at two Duckabush marine stations in August and September, and the Dosewallips station at the mouth of the river had its highest reading of the year in October.

This work led to a prioritization of the areas for sanitary surveys. Several failing and unpermitted septic systems were identified, and efforts are being made to help these homeowners make repairs to failing systems and/or come into compliance with the County's onsite septic system regulations.



Rebates for septic system maintenance are still available but only for a limited time!

Rebates are still available (while funds last) but only until June 30, 2019! Qualifying Jefferson County residents can receive up to \$250 (\$150 for your first septic system inspection by a professional AND \$100 for installation of risers and lids and/or effluent filter).

Call 360-385-9444 or visit

www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org and search for "Rebate" to see if you qualify.

<<Full Name>>

<<Address Line 1>>

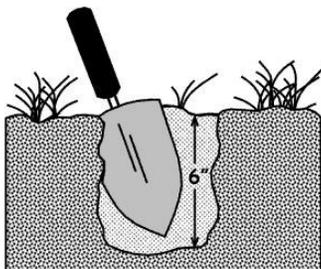
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Protecting human health & Shellfish beds

How can you protect water quality this summer?

Leave No Trace Dig A Cathole



Human waste can affect water quality and pose a health risk to others ... even when camping in the woods. When traveling where there are no sanitary facilities, use a stick or trowel to dig a 6-8 inch cathole at least 200 feet from water and cover your waste (including toilet paper) with soil from the hole. Properly buried human waste will decompose naturally.

And remember to pack out all your trash!

What to do about outdoor sinks (and showers)?

Outdoor sinks and showers are a source of bacteria and nutrient pollution. JCPH requires that ...

Any sinks, showers and/or washing machines, whether they are plumbed to water or not, which discharge greywater (wastewater that doesn't include wastewater from toilets) to the surface of the ground or into a dry well must be plumbed into a permitted onsite septic system.

There are two exceptions to the above rule:

- Fin/Shellfish wash sink is ok if it is located near shore and served by a hose.
- Raw vegetable wash sink is ok if it is near a vegetable garden and served by a hose.

For example, if you have a shoreline property and have plumbed an outdoor sink to a permanent water supply, this sink must either be connected to a permitted onsite septic system or disconnected from water and the plumbing must be removed (only a hose bib is allowed to provide water).

For more info: www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org or (360) 385-9444

