

Shellfish Protection District Annual Reporting Form

Date: 01/28/08

County Name: Mason County

Name and Area of Shellfish Protection District: The Annas Bay Shellfish Protection District is located at the southern end of Hood Canal in the Skokomish River Estuary. The Annas Bay Shellfish Protection District is bordered on the west by Hwy 101 and runs south from Potlatch State Park to Brockdale Road; it then follows the ridgeline north to Union. At Union, the new district lies adjacent to the Lower Hood Canal Clean Water District, which extends on both sides of the canal to Belfair.

Shellfish Program Elements:

(include key strategies, responsible entities and deliverables – describe the program elements separately or summarize as appropriate)

The Annas Bay Closure Response Strategy offers a number of key elements including: identification of pollution sources, development and implementation of corrective actions, water quality monitoring, enforcement, and education. These elements along with the responsible entities and deliverables are described further in the activity matrix found in Appendix A of the Annas Bay Closure Response Strategy document.

Goals, Performance Measures and Targets:

(list according to individual program elements or the collective program)

The goal of the Annas Bay Closure Response Strategy is to upgrade commercial shellfish beds in Annas Bay to an *Approved* growing area classification by April 2008 through a significant reduction in fecal coliform pollution. Products and outcomes (targets) are outlined in the Activity Matrix. Although progress has been made in a timely manner, the current activity matrix was not written with performance measures included.

What work have you done or approaches have you used that have proven to be particularly successful in moving your program forward?

(be as specific as possible)

Sampling surface waters and shoreline springs for Fecal coliform bacteria has been an effective tool to focus efforts in specific areas of the shellfish protection district that have degraded water quality.

Door knocking and talking with residents has been the greatest educational effort made. Mason County Public Health is taking a personal approach to education to get the best response from homeowners. A majority of homeowners have been cooperative in the effort to clean up Annas Bay.

If you didn't meet your targets, what challenges are you facing and what changes do you need to make to achieve better results?

(be as specific as possible)

Water Quality is improving in the Annas Bay Closure area but the growing area has not yet been upgraded.

Flooding is still a non-point pollution issue in the Skokomish watershed. The larger Annas Bay growing area, including the closure area has been shut down due to flooding numerous times in the last year. Shellfish harvest is closed at a gauge height of 15 ft.. On December 3rd, the Skokomish River had the highest gauge height (18 ft) in 63 years of record.

Mason County Public Health has not been able to make contact with some absentee homeowners, although these septic systems may not be in use it is a goal to survey all shoreline parcels in the District. A mailing is in the process of being sent out in early 2008 asking shoreline homeowners or renters if we can conduct a sanitary survey of their property.

The Skokomish Tribe has lost many tribal employees working in the area. A meeting of the Annas Bay Shellfish Closure Response Committee on January 31, 2008 is planned to discuss possibly revision of Tribal activities in the closure response plan.