



THURSTON COUNTY
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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Thurston County Shellfish Activities Report

March 19, 2004

This report provides an update on the ongoing efforts of Thurston County and Thurston Conservation District to reduce bacteria loading in response to the commercial shellfish bed closures in Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach. Below lists some of the major actions taken since December 2001. Attached are tables listing the two shellfish district recommendations and the current status of implementation activities.

- December 2001 Board of County Commissioners approves the formation two Shellfish Protection Districts.
- January 2002 Environmental Health (EH) issues the final report “Bacteriological Contamination Source Identification” showing that some of the bacterial pollution in Henderson Inlet is from humans and pets.
- April 2002 Formed two stakeholder groups, one for each district. These groups were given the task by the Board of County Commissioners to develop recommendations for a long-term strategy by June 2003 (Phase 1).
- April 2002 Environmental Health began the Nisqually Reach Pollution Source Identification Project.
- May 2002 Thurston Conservation District (TCD) receives the Nisqually Delta Shellfish Response Centennial Grant from Ecology.
- June 2002 Nisqually Reach TMDL – Sampling began in June 2002 the goal is completion of a draft in September 2004 for review.
- October 2002 Board of County Commissioners adopt Resolution #12853 extending the Thurston Conservation District Assessment for another 5 years and setting aside 28% of the assessment into a Shellfish Protection Fund. This Fund is to be used for projects within the Shellfish Protection Districts boundaries that will reduce bacterial loading.
- November 2002 Henderson Inlet TMDL – Sampling began in November 2002 the goal is completion of a draft in September 2004 for review.
- March 2003 Thurston Conservation District (TCD) Board of Supervisors and the Board of County Commissioners approve an Interlocal Agreement addressing how the Shellfish Protection Fund will be administered.
- July 2003 The two stakeholder groups present their respective Reports and Recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.
- August 2003 County Commissioners held a work session to discuss next steps given the range, volume, and complexity of the stakeholder’s recommendations. The Board

approved one of the Shellfish District's recommendations – to combine both stakeholder groups with a new task of creating an implementation work plan (Phase 2).

- September 2003 The combined stakeholder groups began monthly meetings to develop an implementation work plan.
- October 2003 Thurston Conservation District hosts a community leaders tour of conservation sites in the Nisqually and Henderson Shellfish Protection Districts and the Community Shellfish Farm.
- November 2003 Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors and the Board of County Commissioners approve the 2004 Shellfish Work Plan to be funded by the Shellfish Protection Fund. The work will implement many of the stakeholder recommendations and include the following activities:
- Support the Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm.
 - Provide grant match to the TCD for the Nisqually Delta Shellfish Response Grant to perform a wide range of activities in the Nisqually Reach area including the TCD participation in the Nisqually Reach TMDL study.
 - TCD will contact 25 landowners with farm conservation plans to assist them in developing a timeline for implementation of Best Management Practices.
 - TCD will use WCC crews for fence building and do riparian planting to create buffer strips.
 - TCD and EH will collaborate in developing a 2004 Watershed Pledge Project.
 - EH and TCD will work together to update the County's Non-Point Ordinance, Article VI of the Thurston County Sanitary Code.
- November 2003 Began work on the Henderson Inlet Shellfish Response and TMDL Project – Task 3 Developing a Risk Based Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Inspection Program
- December 2003 The stakeholder group becomes the core of a larger group to work with the Environmental Health in developing a Risk Based Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Inspection Program, which was one of their recommendations.
- February 2004 County applied for a Centennial Clean Water Grant – “Woodland Creek Pollutant Load Reduction Project”.
- February 2004 Community Shellfish Farm hosts a field trip from the Science Writer's Conference where Steve Langer (Shellfish District Chair) provides overview of current activities.

Attachments:

1. Nisqually Reach Shellfish District's Status Report of Stakeholder's Recommendations
2. Henderson Inlet Shellfish District's Status Report of Stakeholder's Recommendations