



# Public Outreach Update

## April 2001

# Shellfish Protection District

This publication reports what Thurston County residents have told us so far about forming a shellfish protection district for the Nisqually Reach/McAllister Creek and Henderson Inlet watersheds. If you did not receive this in the mail, we would be glad to add you to our mailing list for future updates. Thank you for staying informed about a project that is so vital to your watershed community. We'll stay in touch.

*Thurston County Environmental Health Division  
(360) 754-4111*

PS: Need a quick refresher on why Thurston County is forming a district? Read the back page!

**Join our workshop!**  
**Thursday April 12, 2001**

**6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**Lacey Community Center**  
**6729 Pacific Avenue S.E.**

The format will involve "listening posts" where staff will hear from residents, a brief staff presentation, and small group discussions of district options.

## Who we've reached so far

### Stakeholder interviews (152 people contacted)

- Nisqually River Council
- Long Lake - Lake Management District Steering Committee
- Henderson Inlet Watershed Council
- Nisqually Valley organic farmer
- Nisqually Valley cattle grower
- Carnegie Group
- Realtors
- DNR Shellfish Program Coordinator
- Business owner/horse owner
- Horse stable manager
- Lacey Chamber of Commerce
- Thurston County Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Friends of the Nisqually Valley
- Olympia Chamber of Commerce
- Olympia Master Builders
- Beachcrest Homeowners Assoc.
- Nisqually Wildlife Refuge representative
- Farmers Against Regulatory Mischieif

### Feb. 22 Open House Lacey Community Center (90 people attended)

### Mailings to the public (22,600 mailings sent)

- County "Water Quality and Shellfish News"
- City of Olympia's "Source" newsletter
- "Stream Team" newsletter

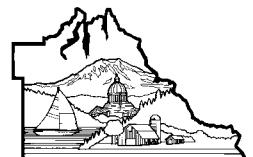
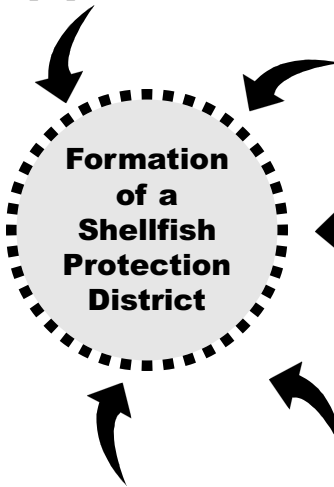
### Television broadcasts

- Thurston Conservation District TCTV show (aired in February and March on Channel 3)
- Thurston County Connection TCTV show (aired in March)

### The Olympian newspaper articles

### Group presentations (87 people contacted)

- LOTT Technical Committee
- WRIA 13 Watershed Planning Committee
- Lakes Improvement Association Board
- SPEECH representatives
- WSU Realtors Shorelines Class



**THURSTON COUNTY**  
WASHINGTON  
SINCE 1852

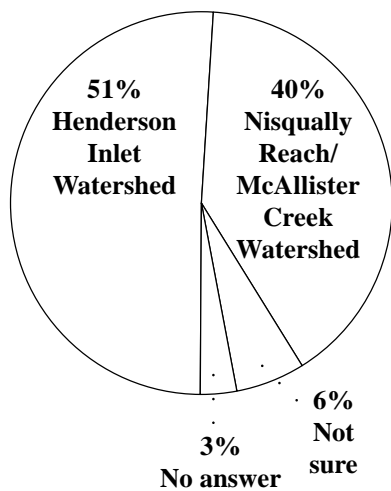
# How you responded to our survey

In January, Thurston County mailed more than 18,000 newsletters and surveys to residents in the Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach/McAllister Creek watersheds. The newsletters announced recent shellfish-harvesting closures by the state Department of Health. It also invited people to participate in the decisions Thurston County and the community face in protecting water quality in the two areas. Thurston County posted an identical newsletter and interactive survey on the county's web site ([www.co.thurston.wa.us](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us)).

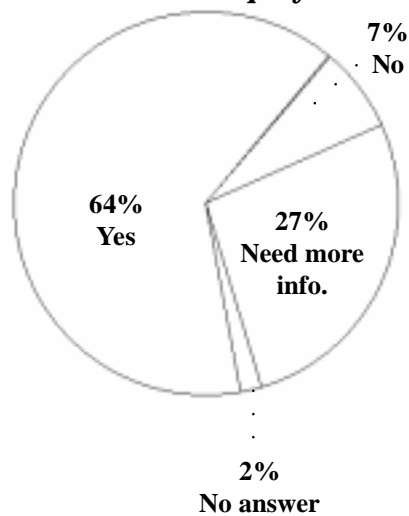
A total of 352 people responded to the survey: 318 through the newsletter "self-mailer" and 34 through the internet site.

Our thanks to all of you who took the time to respond to the survey. Your answers provide valuable information as the Thurston County community works toward forming a shellfish protection district and forging solutions to our water quality problems. Below is a summary of what you told us on the survey.

***"In which watershed do you live?"***



***"Do you believe there are water quality problems in Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach?"***



***Tallies from response cards completed at the February 22 Open House in Lacey***

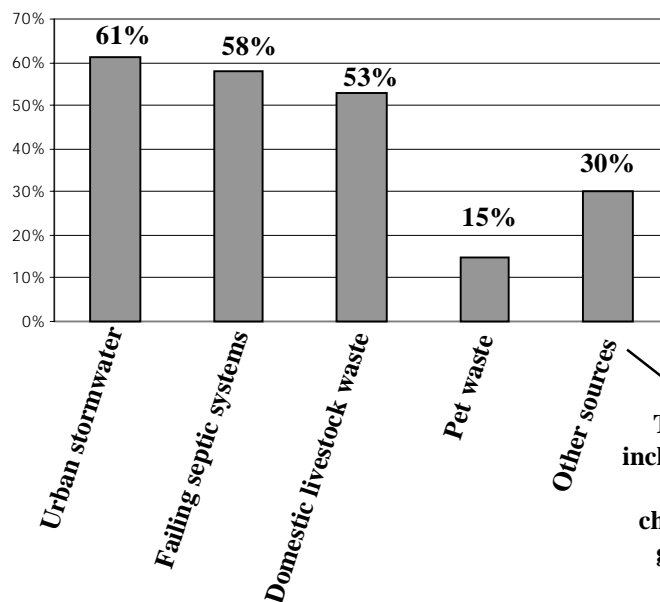
**How important is water quality to you?**

Extremely: 27  
 Very: 19  
 Somewhat: 6  
 Not very: 0  
 Not: 0

**How important is shellfish protection to you?**

Extremely: 24  
 Very: 11  
 Somewhat: 12  
 Not very: 5  
 Not: 1

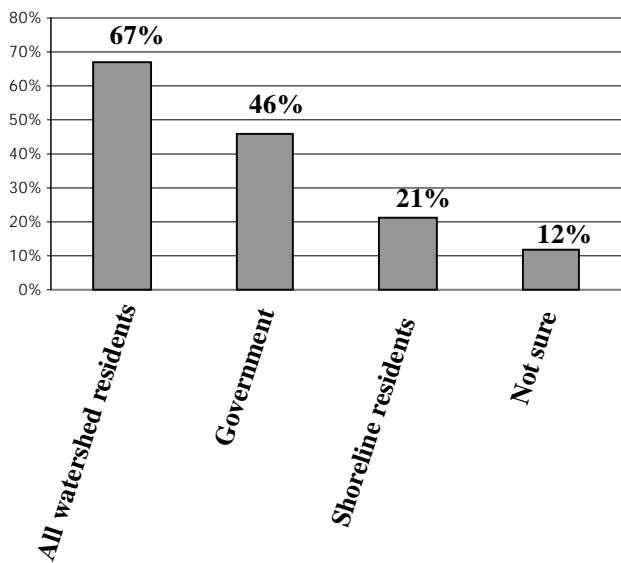
***"Which pollution sources do you think need the most attention?"***



Note: Percentages exceed 100% because respondents could select more than one answer.

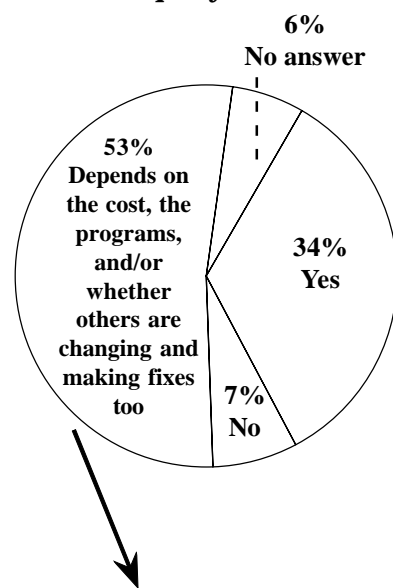
The other sources you listed include: seals and sea lions, birds and geese, fertilizers and chemicals, overpopulation and growth management issues, industry, and LOTT

**“Who should be held responsible for solving water quality problems in the marine waters?”**

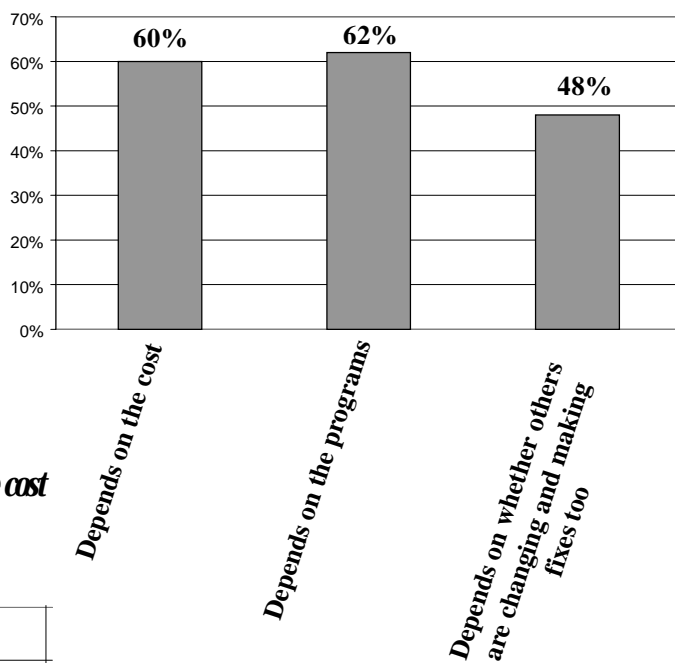


Note: Percentages exceed 100% because respondents could select more than one answer.

**“Would you be willing to change your practices or make changes on your property to protect water quality?”**

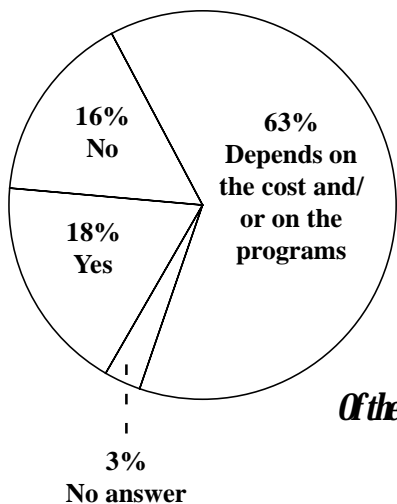


**Of the 53% who said it depends on the cost, programs and/or others making fixes too..**

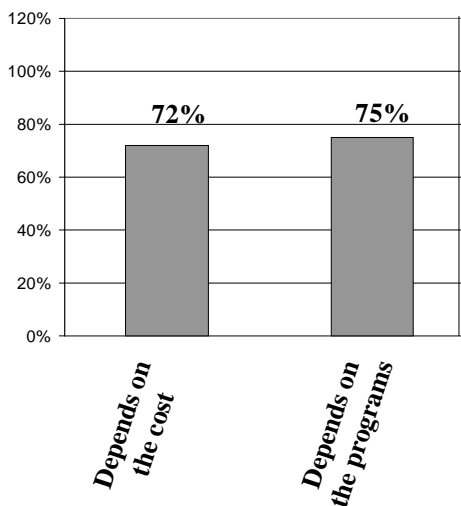


Note: Percentages on above chart exceed 100% because respondents could select more than one answer.

**Would you be willing to pay for programs to correct water quality problems?**



**Of the 63% who said it depends on the cost and/or the programs..**



Note: Percentages exceed 100% because respondents could select more than one answer.



## What you wrote on our survey

The January newsletter/web site survey provided readers an opportunity to write general comments. Below is a summary of comments most frequently mentioned.

### On the topic of problems and solutions

- .. Enforce existing ordinances, rules and laws
- .. Provide education and media information
- .. Problems are a result of growth management and population issues
- .. Manage pets and pet wastes
- .. Manage seals and sea lions
- .. Geese and birds
- .. Fertilizers and lawn chemicals
- .. Agricultural practices (cows etc.)
- .. Provide central sewer and water treatment plants
- .. Failing septic systems
- .. The failing Fort Lewis sewage system
- .. Stormwater technology (filters)

### On the topic of funding

- .. No more taxes
- .. Everyone should pay
- .. Those causing the problem should make changes and pay
- .. Those who benefit should pay
- .. Wouldn't mind a sales tax or tax increase
- .. Tribal issues (are they going to pay their fair share)
- .. Do not create more government bureaucracy
- .. Reallocate existing funding

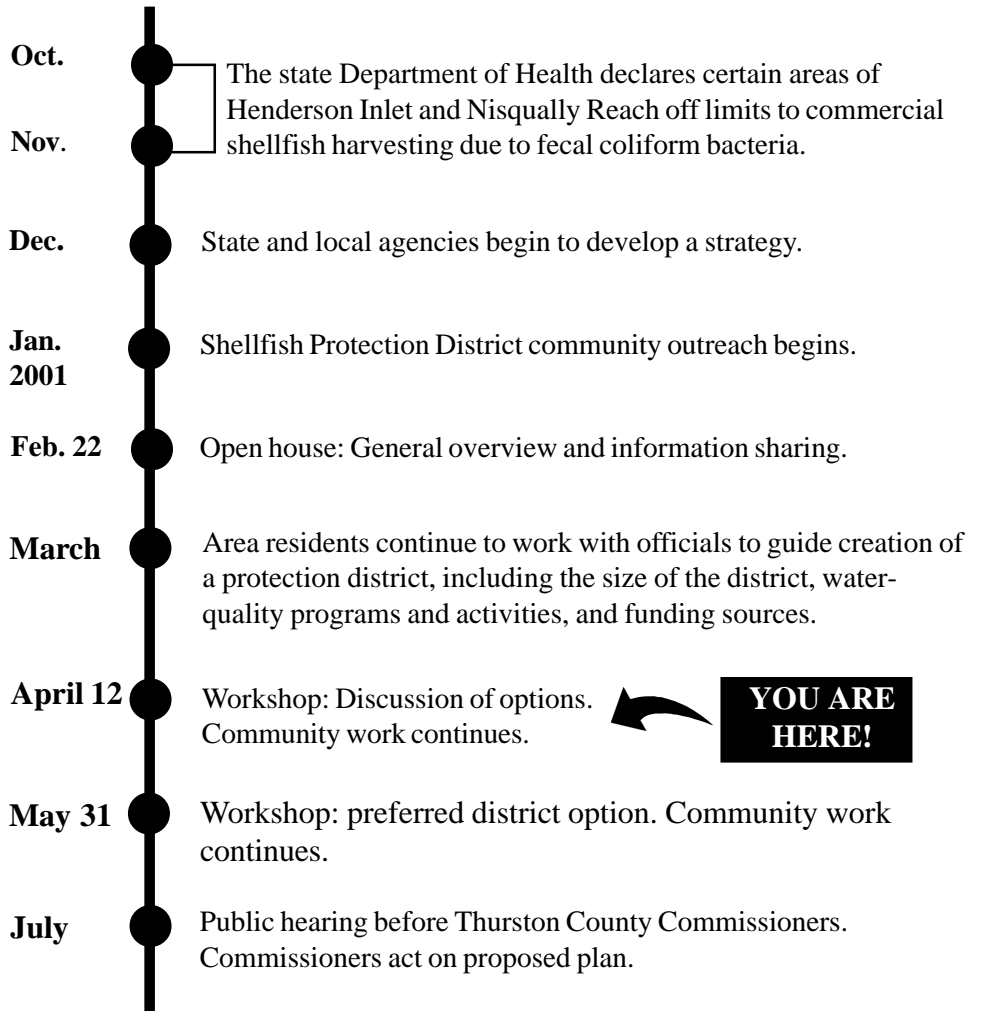


## A quick refresher on the Shellfish Protection District mandate

In November and December 2000, the state Department of Health closed commercial shellfish harvesting in part of Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach/McAllister Creek watersheds. Harvesting was closed because fecal coliform bacteria levels in the two areas were unacceptably high. The closures triggered a state law that now requires Thurston County to form a shellfish protection district. How and where the district(s) is formed, and its program of work, is up to residents and Thurston County to collectively decide.



### Timeline for action



Produced by Thurston County  
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