

PUGET SOUND

National Estuary Program

HOOD CANAL REGIONAL POLLUTION IDENTIFICATION & CORRECTION PROGRAM

The **Hood Canal Regional Pollution Identification and Correction (HCRPIC) Program** is a cooperative effort to identify and correct fecal pollution sources on Hood Canal shorelines to improve water quality, protect clean beaches, and increase harvestable shellfish beds. The HCRPIC Program has fostered and strengthened working relationships between its partners: Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason counties, the Port Gamble S'Klallam and the Skokomish Tribes.

HCRPIC Program Development

Phases I and II of the HCRPIC Program developed and then implemented a coordinated PIC strategy and monitoring plan. HCRPIC members determined and ranked Phase II priority shoreline areas based on regional water quality status information to identify the most urgent shoreline areas to survey. Phase II produced the following [results](#), which will inform the determination of Phase III priority areas:

- **More than 66 miles** of Hood Canal shoreline sampled
- **778 landowners** were consulted
- **76 failing on-site septic systems** were identified
- **92 on-site septic system repairs** were completed, or in progress
- **46 vouchers** were utilized for on-site septic system maintenance or repairs

HCRPIC Phase III Components

- Shoreline sampling and ambient stream water quality monitoring in priority areas
- Pollution hotspot investigation and correction
- Nutrient studies to further Phase II work
- Updated GIS mapping of on-site septic systems and field work conducted in Hood Canal
- Report to Hood Canal on-site septic system property owners and decision makers



HCRPIC Program team member inspects a shoreline drainpipe.
Photo by: Kitsap Public Health District

WHY THIS ISSUE IS IMPORTANT

There are over 32,000 on-site septic systems in Hood Canal, almost all are near waterbodies, and approximately 40% of the systems are over 30 years old. PIC programs are essential to identify leaking systems through routine shoreline outfall sampling to maintain and improve water quality, and will continue to be vital for the health of Hood Canal and its communities.

ABOUT THE HOOD CANAL COORDINATING COUNCIL



The Hood Canal Coordinating Council is a council of governments formed in 1985 in response to water quality problems and related natural resource issues in the Hood Canal watershed. Its mission is to work with partners and communities to advance a shared regional vision to protect and recover Hood Canal's environmental, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.hccc.wa.gov/content/pollution-identification-correction

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