ON SITE SEWAGE INSPECTIONS

Project: notify septic system owners in the Marine Recovery Areas (MRA) of the requirement to have regular septic system inspections.

Purpose: assure that designed and properly installed Onsite Sewage Systems (OSS) are inspected per WAC 246-272A requirements.

Goal: reduce the number of shellfish bed closures due to fecal pollution.

What we’re doing:
The Operations & Maintenance (O&M) program has inventoried approximately 18,000 septic systems in the 12 MRAs and the Shellfish Protection District.

How we’re doing it
- Inspection reminder mailings
- Incentives distributed for prompt inspections
- Enforcement escalation for non-compliance
- O&M joint site visits with certified providers

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT
Areas with a high density of OSS are more likely to affect shellfish beds if design, installation, and maintenance are inadequate.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
- Have your septic system inspected regularly by a certified O&M provider.
- Maintain your drainfield – no parking or building over it! Shallow plantings only.
- Avoid putting harsh chemicals down the drain.
- Limit laundry to one or two loads per day.
- Repair any water leaks.

ABOUT SCDPH OSS PROGRAM
The Skagit County Department of Public Health Onsite Septic Program assures that OSSs are designed and installed per WAC 246-272A and oversees the inspection and maintenance requirement of all known septic systems in Skagit County. The primary focus areas are the MRAs; however, all septic systems have

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.skagitcounty.net/septic
Corrina Marote, Skagit County Department of Public Health
corrinam@co.skagit.wa.us, 360-416-1563