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National Estuary Program

HOOD CANAL REGIONAL POLLUTION IDENTIFICATION & CORRECTION PROGRAM – PHASE III

The **Hood Canal Regional Pollution Identification and Correction (HCRPIC) Program** is a cooperative effort to protect Hood Canal water quality that 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 partners walk Hood Canal shorelines to identify sites with high fecal pollution. They investigate any pollution "hotspots" to uncover the source, and help property owners fix the problem. Through this voluntary approach, pollution is cleaned up and community relationship are strengthened as we work together to protect our Hood Canal.

Phase III Highlights

- **66** shoreline miles inspected
- **380** site visits conducted
- **55** septic system failures identified; **28** repairs completed
- Significant progress toward shellfish growing area upgrades in Hoodsport and Big Bend

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

Clean water is key to preserving Hood Canal's human health, robust tourism, recreational appeal, and rich natural resources, which offer important economic, cultural and subsistence value to residents and tribes statewide. The HCRPIC Program is focused on protecting our clean water by proactively identifying, investigating, and addressing threats to prevent further harm.

What are we protecting?

213 miles of shoreline for swimming, boating, and fishing

30,000 acres of shellfish growing areas

20,000 residents and **millions** of visitors



HCRPIC Program team member collects a water sample from a shoreline drainage. Photo by Mason County Public Health

WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are over 32,000 on-site septic systems in Hood Canal, almost all are near waterbodies, and approximately 40% are over 30 years old. PIC programs are essential to improve water quality by identifying leaking systems through routine shoreline outfall sampling.

You can help by regularly maintaining your septic system to ensure it is functioning properly. Community support for water quality programs that protect Hood Canal is vital to their continuation and 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 natural resource issues in the Hood Canal watershed. Its mission is to advance a shared regional vision with its partners and communities to protect and recover Hood Canal's environmental, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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