

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Jon Hutchings
Director



NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jack Louws, County Executive
Honorable Whatcom County Councilmembers

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director *JH*

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *MS*
Erika Douglas, Senior Planner *ED*

DATE: October 9, 2019

RE: Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) and Shellfish Protection Districts

An informational presentation will be provided by staff and Shellfish Protection District Advisory Committee members regarding PIC activities, the 2019 fall strategy, and the status of shellfish growing areas.

Background and Purpose

The Whatcom Clean Water Program (WCWP) is a partnership of local, state, tribal, and federal organizations working to reduce fecal bacteria in Whatcom County surface waters and restore shellfish growing areas. The Whatcom County Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program is a component of this partnership.

Through coordinated efforts to identify and address varied fecal bacteria source, our community has been successful in improving water quality in many waterways and shellfish growing areas. These efforts have resulted in:

- Reopening 810 acres of shellfish beds in Drayton Harbor in 2016.
- Reopening 129 acres of shellfish beds in Birch Bay in 2018.
- Lifting spring harvest restrictions from shellfish beds in Portage Bay in 2019.
- Meeting water quality standards for fecal bacteria at 45 percent more monitoring stations in 2018 than in 2015.

However, more work remains needed to lift fall harvesting restrictions in Portage Bay and to maintain approved shellfish beds.

This presentation will provide an update on PIC efforts, shellfish growing area status, and the 2019 fall strategy. If you have any questions, please contact Erika at extension 6294.

Attachments