

# Dyes Inlet Restoration Project

(Clear and Chico Creeks, Clear Creek Estuary)

Notice: Public Meeting

Nov. 9, see back  
for more details

# Facts About . . .

## Dyes Inlet Water Quality

In the 1960's Washington State Department of Health classified Dyes Inlet shellfish unsafe to eat due to high levels of fecal pollution. Half of these 3,000 acres of shellfish beds were upgraded to "conditionally approved" in 2003 due to many water quality improvements. Pollution source corrections included repairs to failing septic systems, improved livestock waste management and improvements to Kitsap County and the City of Bremerton sewer systems. Fecal pollution remains significant in the Clear Creek estuary and Chico Bay areas of Dyes Inlet.

### What is the source of the fecal pollution?

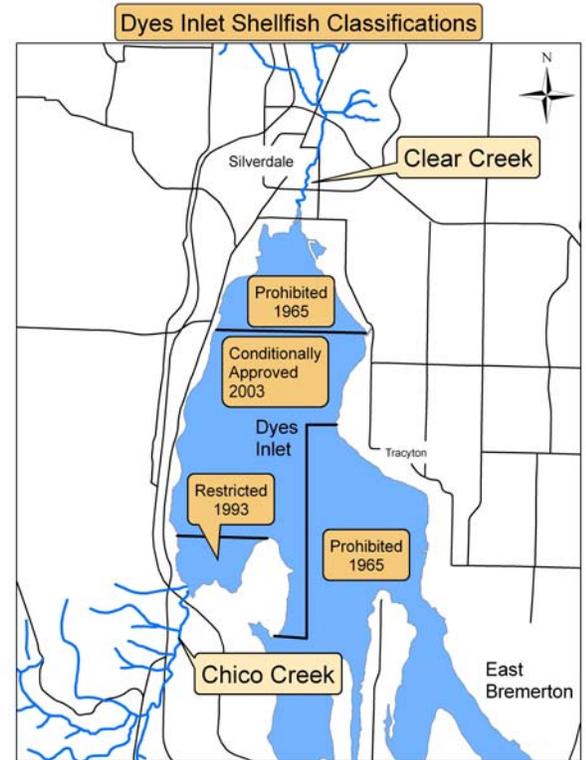
Recent water quality data collected by the Health District, State Health, Department of Ecology and the Navy have helped form a clearer picture of when fecal pollution is occurring and the potential sources.

*Clear Creek Estuary:* Marine sampling stations in the estuary show high levels of fecal pollution with the highest levels occurring on winter rainy days. Clear Creek and runoff from the Silverdale business area appear to be a major source of the fecal bacteria. It also appears that runoff from the commercial and residential areas north of Waaga Way and west of Ridgetop Blvd have high levels of fecal pollution during winter rainy days.

*Chico Bay:* Marine water stations in Chico Bay exceed state fecal standards during summer and winter rainy season. In 2003-2005 five failing septic systems were repaired along the Chico Bay shoreline, which should result in water quality improvements. Water quality data from Chico Creek, a major freshwater source into the bay, shows higher fecal pollution levels in the commercial/retail area of Chico Way during winter rainy days.

### I thought fecal pollution comes from failing septic systems and livestock animal manure?

This is true. However, as these problems are fixed, we are finding that paving previously forested areas creates rapid runoff and carries pollutants to creeks and bays. Fecal pollution in stormwater runoff can come from pet waste, urban wildlife, leaking sewer infrastructure, and the stormwater sediments that flow to the creeks and bays during rainy days.



## Environmental Health Division

Water Quality Program  
345 6th Street, Suite #300  
Bremerton, WA 98337-1866  
(360) 337-5285  
Fax (360) 337-5291  
www.kitsapcountyhealth.com

# Dyes Inlet

## Restoration Project

(Clear and Chico Creeks, Clear Creek Estuary)

Continued...

Facts About . . .

### What is being done?

The Health District is partnering with Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management to work with property owners and tenants in the Silverdale and Chico areas to reduce fecal pollution. During the next two years staff will:

- Contact you to arrange a meeting on your property to complete an informative stormwater system survey.
- Provide you with free technical information including a stormwater system diagram and tips on how to manage stormwater runoff from your property for the health of Dyes Inlet.
- Ask permission to inspect the stormwater system and, in some cases, to sample the runoff from the property.
- Inspect properties with septic systems in areas with documented high fecal pollution.
- Educate property tenants and owners about good housekeeping practices to reduce fecal pollution and other pollutants (metals, oils, and nutrients) that may contaminate Dyes Inlet.
- Recognize participating businesses and properties with a special window-cling showing support for a healthy Dyes Inlet.
- Sample stormwater sub-basins in order to identify high fecal pollution areas, which may be candidates for new fecal pollution reduction technologies.
- Monitor water quality changes after working with property owners and/or installing new fecal pollution reducing technologies. Report the results back to the community.

To learn more about this project we invite you to attend a public meeting:

Wednesday-November 9, 2005

7:00pm –8:30pm

Silverdale Water District Administrative Building

5300 Newberry Hill Rd NW, Suite 100

(between Provost and Dickey Rds)

Silverdale, WA 98383

**For more information contact**

**Mindy Fohn-(360) 337-5621, Kitsap County Health District,**

**fohm@health.co.kitsap.wa.us**

*"From parking lots...to creeks...to Puget Sound." Businesses for Clean Runoff*

#### Environmental Health Division

Water Quality Program  
345 6th Street, Suite #300  
Bremerton, WA 98337-1866  
(360) 337-5285  
Fax (360) 337-5291  
www.kitsapcountyhealth.com

