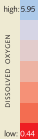


Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Problems



Low levels of dissolved oxygen have resulted in "dead zones" that suffocate fish and most marine life. Natural factors and poor water circulation play a role, but nitrogen from wastewater treatment plants, failing septic systems, farms, fertilizer runoff from lawns and gardens, and pet waste is the main pollutant.

Toxic Cleanup Sites

- cleanups in progress
 - awaiting cleanup
- When toxic pollutants get into Puget Sound, they can settle to the bottom, then work their way into the food chain. There are 1,400 contaminated sites located within ½ mile of Puget Sound. Ecology has cleaned up 732 contaminated sites, is in the process of cleaning up 423 more.

South Puget Sound Dissolved Oxygen Problems



Ecology is concerned that depleted levels of dissolved oxygen in some areas of South Puget Sound could trigger the same water-quality crisis as in Hood Canal. Recent studies have revealed low levels of dissolved oxygen in several key marine bodies – particularly Budd, Case, and Carr inlets.

Shellfish Bed Closures Due to Pollution

Contaminated shellfish reflect water quality problems that can harm the people and animals that eat them.

■ Paved Surfaces

Developed land creates a hard barrier that keeps rain and melting snow from soaking into the ground. Water runs off roads, parking lots, rooftops, driveways, and other developed surfaces. As "stormwater" flows across developed areas, it carries petroleum, heavy metals, PCBs, yard and garden chemicals, bacteria, and other contaminants into Puget Sound.