

Drayton Harbor Community Oyster Farm – January 2003 Project List

Oyster Farming 2001-2004

In the summer of 2001, Japanese oyster seed was planted by volunteers from White Rock, B.C. to Bellingham on 2 acres of prime mudflat in Drayton Harbor. These volunteer *Farmers of the Tideflats* tend the beds three to four times a year and get involved in other projects to help clean up pollution in Drayton Harbor. The oysters, 3/8" long when planted, are now over 4" in length and growing "to beat the band." Blau Oyster Farm in Samish Bay has agreed to purchase this crop in 2004 if water quality is adequately restored in the harbor. Proceeds from the sale will support ongoing pollution control efforts in the Drayton Harbor watershed.

Our Partners: Citizens and over twenty private and public groups.



Stormwater Monitoring 2001-2004

Stormwater from both urban and rural areas can carry bacterial pollutants from various sources into Drayton Harbor. This can degrade water quality and make it unsafe to harvest shellfish. Numerous stormwater drains from the eastern shoreline of Drayton Harbor have been sampled for fecal coliform bacteria since July, 2001. Stormwater from these drainages frequently violates freshwater standards for bacteria and poses an ongoing threat to water quality in the harbor. The objectives of this project are to identify individual drains which contribute the greatest bacterial loading and to work with the City of Blaine to install structures which will reduce bacteria levels before stormwater is discharged into the harbor. **Our Partners:** Citizens, Washington State Department of Health, City of Blaine, Whatcom County Water Resources, Pledge Program, Hirsch Consulting.

Educational Signage 2002

Numerous signs were posted in the commercial area of the Blaine Marina, at the entrance to Drayton Harbor and the Semiahmoo Marina and at a common anchorage area inside of Drayton Harbor. These signs alert visiting boaters to the sensitive nature of Drayton Harbor and the surrounding waters. **Our Partners:** Horizons Foundation, Port of Bellingham, Whatcom County, Blaine Seafood Processors, Semiahmoo Marina.



Tideflat Tours 2002

A series of field tours were conducted to educate and inform decision-makers in the community about shellfish restoration efforts in Drayton Harbor. This program focused on the Blaine City Council and Planning Commission, Whatcom County Council and Planning Commission, Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee and the Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District Citizen Advisory Committee. Through this program, forty individuals directly experienced the rich resources of Drayton Harbor. **Our Partner:** Whatcom County Water Resources.

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**Puget Sound
RESTORATION FUND**

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Marine Drive Sewer Repair 2001

Most of Blaine's sewage travels through a series of pipes and manholes along Marine Drive before being pumped over to the wastewater treatment plant on the Semiahmoo Spit. Funds were raised to videotape an older portion of this system and to inspect numerous manholes for leaks. Significant cracks that were detected in sewer pipes and manholes were all repaired in the fall of 2001. **Our Partners:** City of Blaine, Semiahmoo First Nation, Washington State Department of Ecology, Whatcom County WRIA 1 Early Action Funds, Drayton Shellfish Protection District.

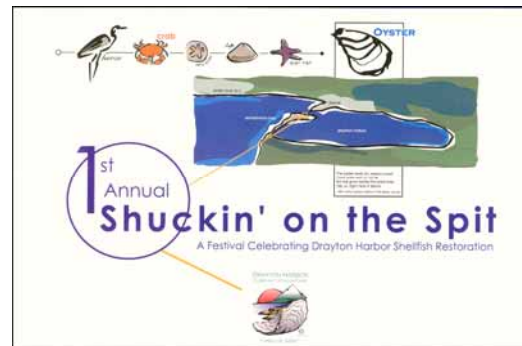


Wetlands for Water Quality 2001-2004

There is quite a diversity of wetland types in the Drayton Harbor watershed. The 1995 Watershed Action Plan and the 2001 Shellfish District Water Recovery Plan both speak to the need to identify wetlands which provide the important function of fecal coliform control. After two years of investigation, Ecology, partnering with the local community, has produced a report which identifies key areas for wetland restoration and education projects in the Dakota and California Creek drainages. **Our Partners:** Ecology's Wetland Restoration Program, Trillium Corporation, Whatcom County Planning, Whatcom Conservation District.

Shuckin' on the Spit 2002 –2004

The first annual "*Shuckin' on the Spit*" shellfish extravaganza was held in the spring of 2002 at Resort Semiahmoo. This festival was held to raise the community's awareness of the rich marine resources that we are blessed with in this area and to enjoy a great seafood feed. It is a benefit for the Puget Sound Restoration Fund's Community Oyster Farm project. The second annual *Shuckin'* event will occur on May 3rd, 2003. At the third annual *Shuckin'* event, we hope to be dining on the finest oysters grown in the Puget Sound, those from our own Drayton Harbor. **Our Partners:** Resort Semiahmoo, Trillium Corporation.



Blaine Marina Circulation Studies 2003

The commercial portion of the Blaine Marina continues to have very high concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria. The Washington State Department of Health is unlikely to re-open shellfish harvesting in Drayton Harbor until it is proven that fecal bacterial sources in the marina are non-human or that pollutants from this area do not significantly impact water quality over the oyster beds. A series of circulation/drift studies will be conducted during the spring of 2003 to track the movement of water from various depths in the commercial part of the marina into the surrounding waters of Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay. **Our Partners:** Whatcom County Water Resources, Port of Bellingham, Washington State Department of Health.