PUGET SOUND
National Estuary Program

CLALLAM PIC UPDATE

Next Open House

Well, this Pollution Identification and Correction newsletter update is long overdue! PIC Project partners have been busy monitoring water quality in area streams and visiting properties surrounding "hotspots" measured over the summer.

Project partners have also decided to hold off on the next open house until sometime around March, 2019. The current iteration of the PIC Project is supposed to wrap up by the end of March, so we hope to be able to bring some perspective on the project in its entirety at that time—and we'd like to avoid competing with the holidays!

Dec. 2018 Update Topics

- Next Open House
- Segmented Sampling Data
- Hotspot Follow-Up
- Clean Water District
- Shellfish Upgrades
- Resources

Baseline Trends Monitoring keeps tabs on all Clean Water District streams.

Segmented Sampling Data

Speaking of water quality monitoring, how have the data from Matriotti and Lotzgesell Creeks looked recently?

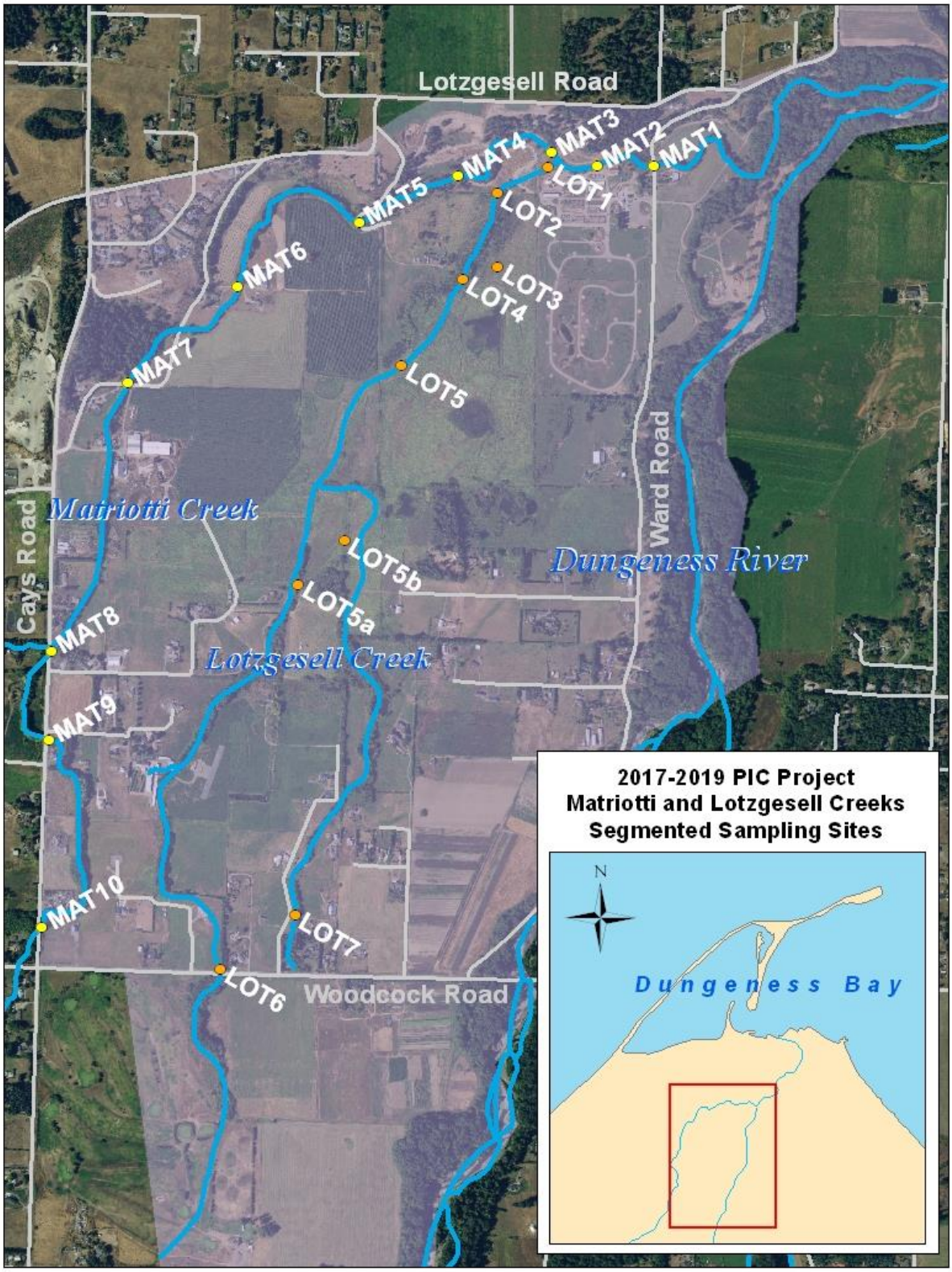
Project partners visited the regular PIC Segmented Sampling sites to measure bacteria in September, October, and November, and results might best be described as mixed. Various sample sites were skipped due to insufficient flow/volume and/or access issues. Units in the below table are fecal coliform colony-forming units (CFU) per 100 mL sample:

Sample Site	9/13/2018	10/23/2018	11/27/2018
LOT1	30	14	14
LOT2	26	32	2
LOT3	NA	NA	2
LOT4	20	NA	10
LOT5	8	NA	4
LOT5a	50	22	12
LOT5b	6	2	12
LOT6	32	112*	4
LOT7	NA	NA	NA
MAT1	254	48	78
MAT2	30	20	6
MAT3	52	12	6
MAT4	70	4	4
MAT5	62	50	2
MAT6	40	24	4
MAT7	38	42	4
MAT8	110	60	24
MAT9	76	144	16
MAT10	20	284	50

**Insufficient flow/volume to collect a quality grab sample without introducing sediments/organic matter—low confidence in result.*

By late November, bacteria concentrations in Matriotti and Lotzgesell creeks appeared to drop to some degree.

Sample site locations appear below.


Lotzgesell Road
MAT1
MAT2
MAT3
MAT4
MAT5
MAT6
MAT7
MAT8
MAT9
MAT10
LOT1
LOT2
LOT3
LOT4
LOT5
LOT5a
LOT5b
LOT6
LOT7
Matriotti Creek
Lotzgesell Creek
Dungeness River
Ward Road
Cays Road
Woodcock Road
2017-2019 PIC Project
Matriotti and Lotzgesell Creeks
Segmented Sampling Sites
N
Dungeness Bay

Hotspot Follow-Up

Since several "hotspots" were characterized in lower Matriotti and Lotzgesell Creeks over the summer, Environmental Health staff has been attempting to contact neighboring property owners to request site visits in order to rule out potential sources of bacteria.

Remember, "hotspot" designation does not necessarily mean a major water quality problem exists. This just means Environmental Health needs to follow the PIC Plan and conduct surveys of surrounding parcels. Surveys usually involve walking stream banks to look for obvious sources of bacteria, noting streamside vegetation or lack thereof, walking septic drain fields to check for signs of ponding, looking for pet waste, and asking about animal-keeping practices.

In some cases we've been unable to make contact and have left door-hangers, requesting a phone call or email back.

Even though November segmented sampling data may seem like an improvement over past months, Environmental Health needs to stick to the PIC Plan and continue trying to visit the remaining parcels for PIC surveys.

Clean Water District

The full name of PIC is actually Pollution Identification and Correction Plan for the Sequim Bay-Dungeness Watershed Clean Water District (whew). So, what is the Clean Water District anyway?

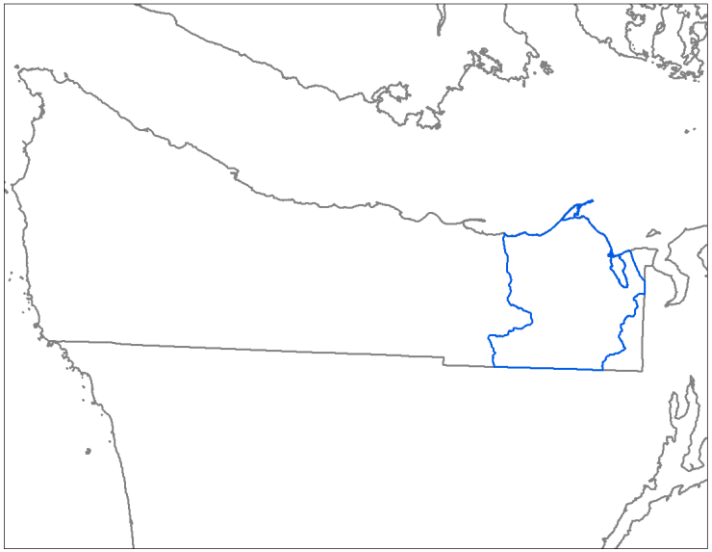
The "District" was created in 2001 to address water quality issues and shellfish growing area downgrades in the eastern part of Clallam County (maps below). Within the District, various groups have worked collaboratively to address water quality issues.

PIC is just one project going on within the Clean Water District. Through PIC, the Baseline Trends Monitoring team keeps tabs on all the District streams that discharge into marine waters. Baseline Trends information helps guide selection of PIC focus areas. Within a focus area, segmented sampling helps figure out which sections of stream could use improvement and PIC surveys help determine how activities on nearby parcels might impact in-stream water quality.

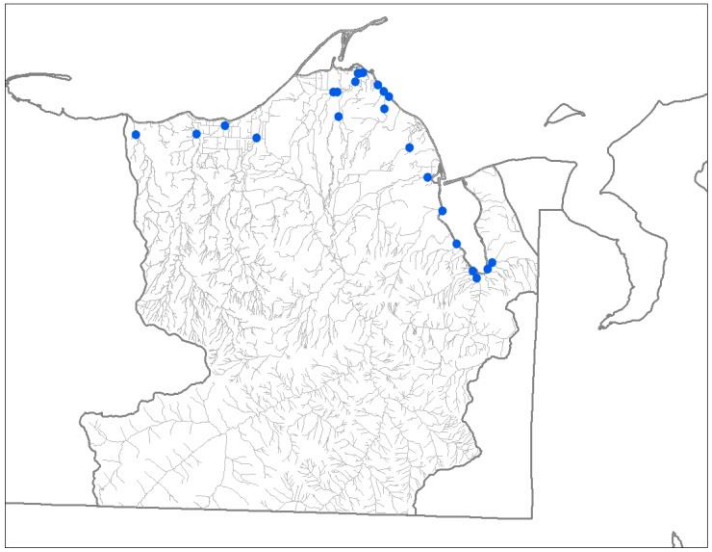
The current PIC focus area includes portions of Matriotti and Lotzgesell Creeks.

A dedicated team of Streamkeepers volunteers continues regular Baseline Trends Monitoring throughout the entire Sequim Bay-Dungeness Clean Water District.

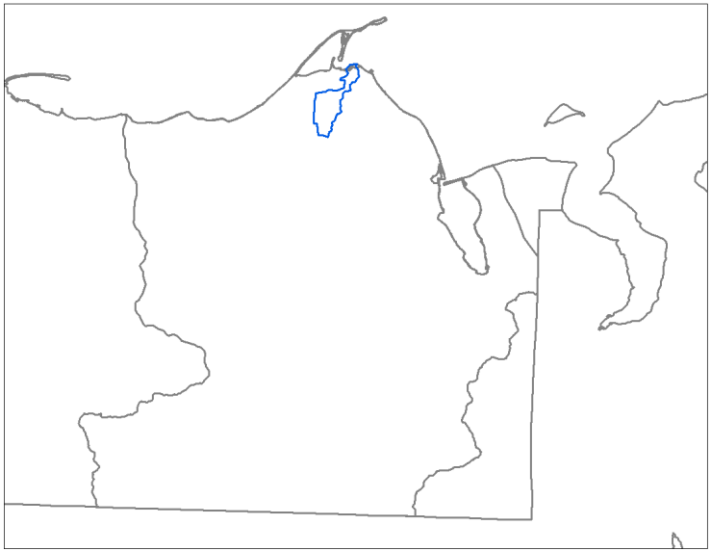
Clallam County and Clean Water District (CWD)



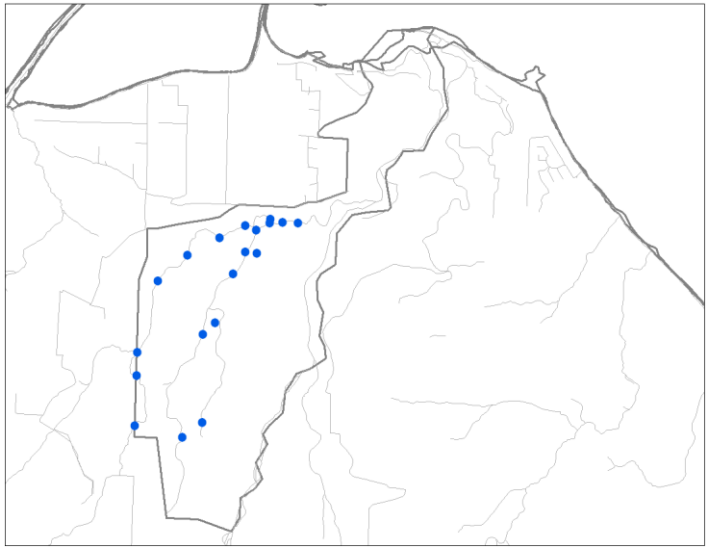
CWD and Baseline Trends Monitoring Sites



CWD and Current PIC Focus Area



Current Focus Area with Segmented Sampling Sites



Shellfish Growing Area Upgrades

In October 2018 Washington Department of Health was able to "upgrade" about 23 acres of shellfish growing area near Washington Harbor in addition to 67 acres at Pitship Point, just south of John Wayne Marina (both in Sequim Bay). This acreage is now classified "approved" rather than "prohibited."

This does not necessarily mean it is safe to eat shellfish from these areas or that there is a current harvest approved by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Always check the Washington Shellfish Safety Map online (link below), or call the biotoxin hotline at 1-800-562-5632 for closures. Visit WDFW online (link below), or call the Shellfishing Regulation Hotline at 866-880-5431 for recreational shellfish harvest information.

In 2019 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and local treaty tribes will be conducting survey work on the newly-approved tidelands of Pitship Point, near John Wayne Marina, to determine sustainable harvest levels and future recreational harvesting seasons. It is anticipated that this site will open for sport harvest at some point in 2019.

A variety of factors made it possible to upgrade shellfish acreage in Sequim Bay including 1) good marine water quality, 2) implementation of a Puget-Sound-Wide Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zone, 3) improved water quality in nearby streams, 4) past pollution control efforts, and more.

Bell Creek and Johnson Creek discharge into marine waters near the newly approved shellfish growing areas and the Streamkeepers Baseline Trends Monitoring Team monitors these streams regularly. Thanks to the dedication of volunteers, Streamkeepers of Clallam County was able to provide data that helped support the management decision to upgrade the classification of shellfish growing area in Sequim Bay.

Johnson Creek discharges into Sequim Bay at Pitship Point, just south of John Wayne Marina.

Resources:

- Washington Shellfish Safety Map: https://www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety.htm
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Shellfish Information: https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/
- Streamkeepers of Clallam County: http://www.clallam.net/SK/
- Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zone: https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Puget-Sound/No-discharge-zone
- Clallam Conservation District Native Plant Sale: https://clallamcd.org/plant-sale
- Keep an eye out in the December *Healthy Living* section of local newspapers for an article on pet waste by WSU Extension Program.