



# Budd Inlet Sediments Sediments Investigation Update

*Department of Ecology is Continuing an Investigation of  
Dioxin Contamination in Budd Inlet.*

## Background

Ecology began the investigation of Budd Inlet dioxin contamination in April 2007 by collecting sediment and tissue samples throughout the inlet. Because of the high cost of dioxin analysis, the *Sampling and Analysis Plan* called for some of the samples to be analyzed and others to be stored for potential use at a later date. Results from the first set of data analysis and public comment would determine if more samples would need to be analyzed and at which locations.

## Update

Ecology has received validated data from the analysis of sediment samples and is currently reviewing the data. Preliminary review of these data and public comment on the original sampling plan indicate that more information is needed to better understand the extent of dioxin contamination in the inlet.

Ecology has sent some of the stored samples for analysis. With more information, Ecology will be able to determine the next steps in the cleanup process for this area.

## Preliminary Results

A complete report, containing both sets of data and an evaluation of findings to date, will not be available until this November. Ecology is sharing the initial results in this update (see Figure 1) to keep the community informed. Initial results indicate:

- Dioxins in Budd Inlet ranged from 0.3 to 4,212.5 parts per trillion (ppt).

## South Budd Inlet

- The highest concentrations of dioxins (above 40 ppt) were found in the West Bay area of the inlet.
- Concentrations in the highest range (above 40 ppt) ranged from 41.3 to 62.5 ppt, with the exception of two core samples at location C05.
- Samples taken from the C05 location, next to the Port of Olympia's shipping berths, contained 230.6 and 4,212.5 ppt dioxins (see Figure 1).

## North Budd Inlet

- Dioxin concentrations in the two samples collected from the northern section of Budd Inlet were 16.5 and 20.2 ppt.

## Capitol Lake

- Two samples from this area were analyzed and contained 2.0 and 4.0 ppt dioxins.

Ecology will further investigate areas of South and North Budd Inlet, especially in areas like C05 where the highest dioxin levels were detected. Some of the stored samples are currently being analyzed to give Ecology more information.

This fact sheet is not intended to be a full report and findings reported here are considered preliminary. Ecology is still reviewing these data and cannot draw any conclusions until both data sets are available. Ecology will keep you informed and involved as the investigation moves forward.

## August 2007

## Site Update

**For more information about the Budd Inlet investigation, visit Ecology's Web site at:**

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/budd\\_inlet/budd\\_inlet\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/budd_inlet/budd_inlet_hp.htm)

**Copies of the April 2007 Sampling and Analysis Plan and Date Gaps Report are available at the following locations:**

WA Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
Toxics Cleanup Program

300 Desmond Dr.  
Lacey, WA 98503  
(360) 407-6365

E-mail: [dene461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dene461@ecy.wa.gov)

Timberland Olympia Library  
313 8th Avenue SE  
Olympia, WA 98501-9300  
(360) 352-0595

**Technical questions about the site and the investigation can be directed to:**

**Rebecca S. Lawson, P.E., LHG**

WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775  
(360) 407-6241

E-mail: [rslaw461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:rslaw461@ecy.wa.gov)

**For more information about public involvement, contact:**

**Meg Bommarito**

WA Department of Ecology  
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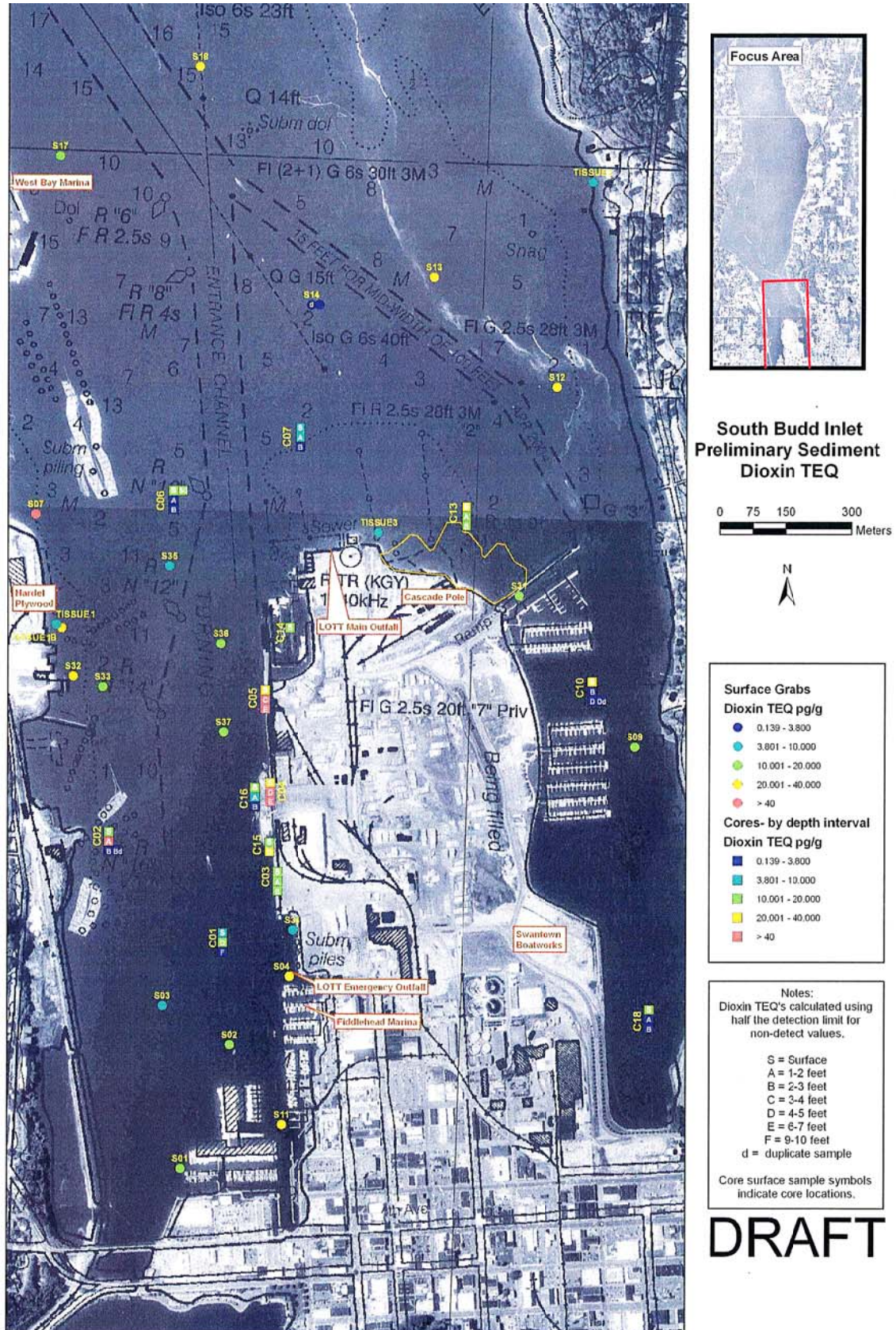
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## What Next?

Once some of the stored samples have been analyzed, the results will be sent to an independent lab for validation. A report, containing a summary and discussion of the validated results of both datasets, will be available to the public in November 2007. Please see the attached *Budd Inlet Frequently Asked Questions* for more information about this site.

Figure 1. Preliminary Results of Data Analysis for South Budd Inlet



## Why is Ecology Studying Budd Inlet Sediments?

Ecology began an investigation of Budd Inlet sediments after elevated levels of dioxins were discovered by the Port of Olympia in an area scheduled for routine maintenance dredging. Although dioxins were found in areas throughout the inlet, the highest levels of dioxins were found in sediments near stormwater discharge pipes and the Port's shipping berths.

The specific source of dioxins in Budd Inlet is unknown. Most likely, dioxin contamination resulted from historical industrial use of shore areas or stormwater runoff.

## What Else is Ecology Doing in Budd Inlet?

Ecology is working on reducing the level of contamination within the entire **Budd Inlet area**. In addition to the area-wide investigation, cleanup work is underway at several other sites in Budd Inlet. Budd Inlet is part of the Governor's **Puget Sound Initiative** and a high priority area for Ecology. Ecology is working to reduce overall contamination and help with efforts to restore the Puget Sound.

### Current Ecology Toxics Cleanup projects underway in Budd Inlet

- 1 = Cascade Pole
- 2 = Budd Inlet Sediments
- 3 = Port of Olympia
- 4 = Reliable Steel
- 5 = Hardel Mutual Plywood
- 6 = Industrial Petroleum

