

Sediment Sampling Results Available for Priest Point Park



A PUGET SOUND INITIATIVE site

Reaching the goal of a healthy, sustainable Puget Sound now and forever!

Ecology funded sediment sampling in public access areas of Priest Point Park, Olympia. In October 2010, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (County Health) sampled in Budd Inlet. You can read the report at locations listed to the right.

Ecology is not accepting formal public comments on this report. However, the public is welcome to contact Ecology, State Department of Health (DOH), or County Health with questions or concerns. These contacts are also listed to the right.

Why Did Ecology Sample at Priest Point Park?

The goal of this study is to determine if dioxins in sediments at Priest Point Park public access areas are a risk to human health. In 2007 Ecology did a sediment study in Budd Inlet (more information on page 3). DOH evaluated the results of that study and concluded that there was no apparent health hazard for people exposed to Budd Inlet sediments. However, DOH did recommend collecting more samples in public access areas, specifically Priest Point Park beaches.

What We Found...

County Health collected 30 samples from surface sediments (top 10 centimeters) at 15 locations along Priest Point Park beaches. See page 2 for a map of sampling locations. Dioxin levels ranged from **0.091 to 4.8 parts per trillion (ppt)**. These levels are lower than the average level of dioxin Ecology found during the 2008 Sediment Investigation. The average dioxin level in Budd Inlet surface sediments was 19.1 ppt.

What Happens Next?

- DOH will look at the data to determine if there is a potential health risk from contact with sediments.

For More Information

Ecology Project Manager:

Rebecca S. Lawson, P.E., LHG

WA Department of Ecology
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program
P.O. Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Phone: (360) 407-6241

E-mail: Rebecca.Lawson@ecy.wa.gov

Health Concerns:

Lenford O'Garro

WA Department of Health

Phone: 360-236-3376

Email: Lenford.O'Garro@doh.wa.gov

Gerald Tousley

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department

Phone: 360-867-2589

Email: tousleg@co.thurston.wa.us

Document Review Locations

Olympia Timberland Library

313 8th Avenue SE,

Olympia, WA

Phone: (360) 352-0595

WA Department of Ecology

Southwest Regional Office

300 Desmond Drive SE,

Lacey, WA

By appointment only, contact Debbie

Nelson, Debbie.Nelson@ecy.wa.gov or

(360) 407-6365

Ecology's Web Site

[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)

FS ID#: 3097108

Budd Inlet Sediment Investigation

- Ecology hopes to follow up on other recommendations from the 2008 report when funding becomes available. Future work may include determining the northernmost extent of contamination.

Why is this Work Important?

Decades of industrial, municipal, and naturally occurring pollution have damaged the quality, condition, and ecology of Puget Sound. In 2005, Governor Gregoire and the Legislature launched the Puget Sound Initiative to begin restoring the health of the Sound by 2020.

One of the goals of the Initiative is to protect and restore Puget Sound by cleaning up contaminated sites within one-half mile of the Sound. These cleanup actions will help to reduce pollution and restore habitat and shorelines in Puget Sound. Ecology has investigations planned or underway in the following areas of the Sound: Port Gamble, Dumas Bay, Padilla and Fidalgo Bay, Port Angeles, Oakland Bay, Port Gardner at Everett, and Budd Inlet.



SEDIMENT INVESTIGATION HISTORY

2007

- Port of Olympia finds elevated levels of sediment dioxins at a shipping berth.
- Ecology begins an investigation of Budd Inlet sediments. Ecology collects sediments and tissue samples (clams, shrimp and fish) from throughout the inlet.

2008

- Ecology releases the Sediment Investigation Report.
- Results show the highest levels of dioxins are limited to the Port's shipping berth and two areas near the Hardel Mutual Plywood cleanup site and the Moxlie Creek outfall in East Bay.
- The average dioxin level is 19 ppt for surface sediments (top 10 centimeters).
- The range of dioxins outside of the Port's berths is 2.9 - 60 ppt.
- DOH releases a Health Consultation Report with its analysis of the data. The report concludes there is no apparent health hazard from exposure to Budd Inlet sediments. Visit <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/oehas/consults.htm> to view this report.
- DOH recommends more sampling at public access areas in Budd Inlet, like Priest Point Park.
- The Port dredges 9,500 cubic yards of sediment from an area next to two shipping berths.

2009

- County Health develops a sampling plan for Priest Point Park sediments.

2010

- Ecology approves the County Health sampling plan and funding for the project.
- County Health samples in October.

What Else is Ecology Doing to Clean Up Budd Inlet?

Cleaning Up Contaminated Sites

Ecology is working to clean up eight contaminated sites throughout Budd Inlet. For more information about these cleanup sites, visit

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/psi/buddInlet/psi_buddInlet.html.

Supporting Budd Inlet Restoration Efforts

Beyond its work to clean up contamination in Budd Inlet, Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) is also supporting a larger restoration effort in Budd Inlet. The program provides funding that allows local agencies to coordinate on restoration efforts.

The cities of Olympia and Tumwater, Thurston County, the Port of Olympia, the LOTT Alliance, and Washington State University signed an agreement that establishes a framework to begin looking at ways to restore areas of Budd Inlet. This effort began in 2008 and Ecology recently pledged additional funds to the project, bringing total Ecology funding to nearly \$150,000.



View of the east shore of Budd Inlet



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY

State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Budd Inlet Sediment Investigation Olympia, WA Sediment Sampling Results Available

Facility Site ID #3097108

If you need this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Toxics Cleanup Program reception desk at 360-407-6300. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Why did I receive this mailing?

Department of Ecology is sending this fact sheet to residents, businesses, organizations, and local officials interested in Budd Inlet cleanup. This fact sheet shares the results of sediment sampling near Priest Point Park beaches.

To be removed from the mailing list:

Hannah Aoyagi

Phone: (360) 407-6790

E-mail: Hannah.Aoyagi@ecy.wa.gov

