

# Sea K Fish Site



*Aerial view of Blaine Harbor and Sea K Fish cleanup site in middle foreground*

**Comments accepted:**

October 12 – November 10, 2020

**Submit comments:**

**Online at** [www.bit.ly/Ecology-SeaKFish-Comments](http://www.bit.ly/Ecology-SeaKFish-Comments)

**Or by mail to:**

Cris Matthews, Site Manager  
 WA Department of Ecology  
 913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 Phone: 360-255-4379  
 Email: [Cris.Matthews@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Cris.Matthews@ecy.wa.gov)

**Document review options:**

[www.bit.ly/Ecology-SeaKFish](http://www.bit.ly/Ecology-SeaKFish)

**Ecology-Bellevue Office**

3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
 Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
 By appointment, call 425-649-7239  
[nwro\\_public\\_request@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:nwro_public_request@ecy.wa.gov)

**Ecology-Bellingham Office**

For document review assistance,  
 please contact:

**Ian Fawley**

Outreach Specialist  
[Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov)  
 425-324-5901

**Site info:**

Facility Site ID: 80387768  
 Site Cleanup ID: 10583

## Formal cleanup process beginning


The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on an agreed order (legal agreement) and a public participation plan for the Sea K Fish cleanup site (Site) at the Blaine Harbor. The Port of Bellingham (Port) operates Blaine Harbor and manages the Sea K Fish property under an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources.

The contamination is the result of past petroleum storage and fish oil processing operations. The contaminant levels are potentially harmful and must be addressed under Washington’s cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

The legal agreement between Ecology and the Port will require the Port to characterize contamination at the Site, evaluate cleanup options, and create a draft cleanup plan. A future legal agreement will require the Port to design and carry out the work described in the cleanup plan.

The following documents are available for review and comment:

- **Agreed Order:** legal agreement between Ecology and the Port that requires the Port to characterize the Site (Remedial Investigation), evaluate cleanup options (Feasibility Study), and create a draft Cleanup Action Plan.
- **Public Participation Plan:** document that explains how people can participate in the cleanup process.



**Online Site tour**

- View a virtual Site tour with informational videos created by RE Sources: [www.re-sources.org/SeaKFish](http://www.re-sources.org/SeaKFish)
- This product is funded through a Public Participation Grant from Ecology.



1956 Aerial photo of Blaine Harbor and Sea K Fish site location (before present-day development)

### Location and background

The Sea K Fish property is located at 225 and 205 Sigurdson Avenue in the Blaine Harbor industrial area in Blaine, WA. Portions of the property were contaminated by past petroleum storage and fish oil processing operations.

Blaine Harbor was originally created in the late 1930s by dredging the tideflats and using the dredged materials to create uplands. The harbor’s upland areas were expanded in the 1940s, 1950s, and again in 2001.

The State of Washington is the owner of the property located between the inner harbor line and outer harbor line in Blaine Harbor. The Port manages this property according to the terms of a Port Management Agreement with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The Port has leased the property to different companies for commercial purposes.



Oil sheen observed near Sea K Fish site

### Contamination

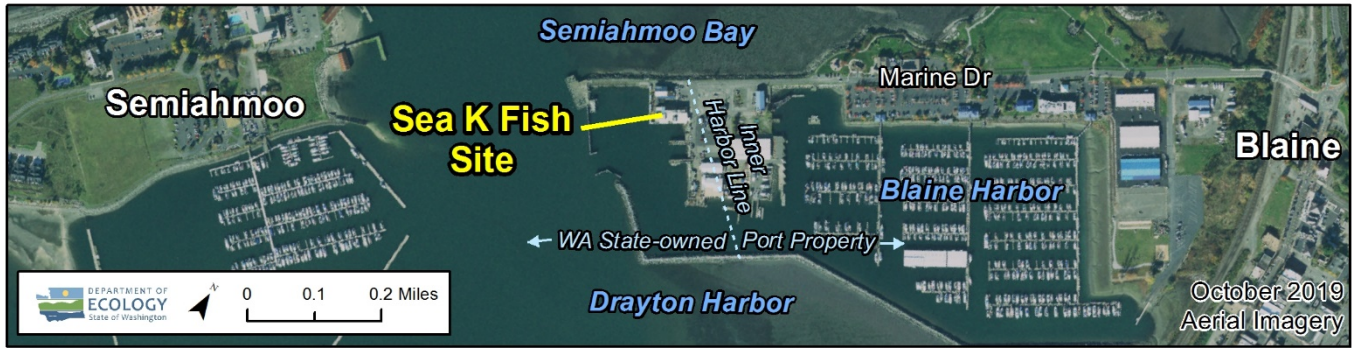
In 2019, the Port conducted an environmental investigation which showed petroleum contamination in soil and groundwater that exceeded cleanup levels allowed under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA):

- Light non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL)
- Gasoline, diesel, and oil-range hydrocarbons
- Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene compounds (BTEX)

### En español

El Departamento de Ecología le invita a revisar y comentar acerca de los documentos para el sitio que está contaminado Sea K Fish en Blaine.

Si le gustaría recibir este documento en español, por favor llame al 509-329-3444 o envíe un correo electrónico a [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov). Traducciones de avisos públicos para este sitio de limpieza se preparan bajo solicitud.



Present-day aerial view of cleanup site area

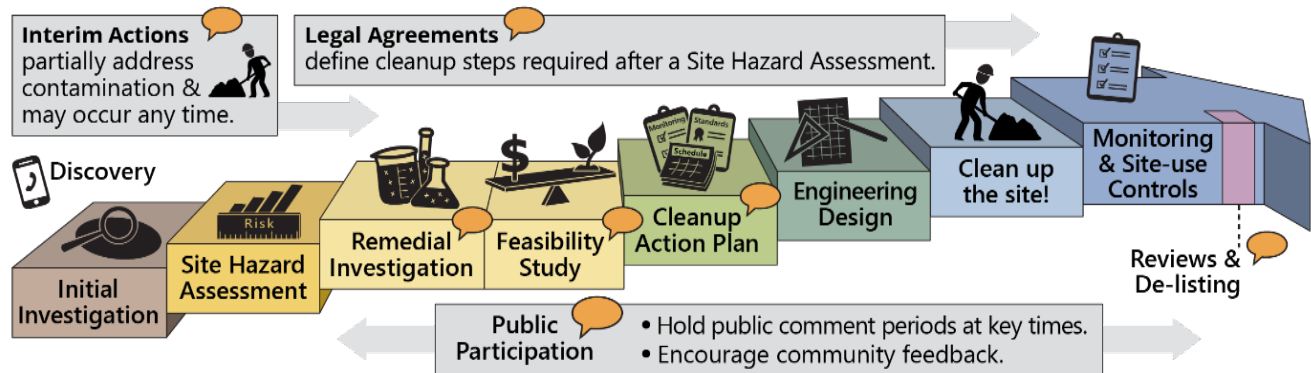
### Funding

The Port is eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of remedial action costs from Ecology through the state’s [Remedial Action Grant Program](#)<sup>1</sup>. This funding helps pay for the cleanup of publicly-owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

### Washington’s formal cleanup process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA; [Chapter 70.105D RCW](#)<sup>2</sup>) is Washington’s environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology enacts the MTCA and oversees cleanups.

The [MTCA site cleanup process](#)<sup>3</sup> is completed in steps over a variable timeline (see graphic below).



### Next steps and estimated timeline

- **Oct. 12 – Nov. 10, 2020:** Hold 30-day public comment period along with RE Sources virtual tour.
- **2020-2021:** Respond to comments, finalize Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan, and begin the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.
- **2021-2022:** Finalize the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, create draft Cleanup Action Plan, and enter into a Consent Decree (legal agreement) for final cleanup action.
- **2022-2023:** Complete design and permitting and begin implementing the cleanup action.

The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, draft Cleanup Action Plan, and the future legal agreement will be available for public review and comment.

<sup>1</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Oversight-remedial-action-grants-loans>

<sup>2</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

Toxics Cleanup Program  
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101  
Bellingham, WA 98225

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## Formal cleanup process beginning



*Aerial view of Sea K Fish Site*

### Public comment period

October 12 - November 10, 2020

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### Online Site Tour

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### Información en español incluida

**Accommodation Requests:** To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-255-4382 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.