

Sea K Fish Site



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

Comments accepted:

May 22 – July 5, 2023

Submit comments:

Online at www.bit.ly/Ecology-SeaKFish-Comments2023

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

Document review locations:

www.bit.ly/Ecology-SeaKFish

Blaine Library

610 3rd Street
 Blaine, WA 98230

For document review assistance,
 please contact:

Ian Fawley

Outreach Planner
Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov
 425-324-5901

Site info:

Facility Site ID: 80387768
 Site Cleanup ID: 10583

Interim Action ready for public review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to review an interim action (early partial cleanup) and associated documents 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.

Under a legal agreement with Ecology, the Port is completing an early partial cleanup of the Site by removing petroleum-contaminated soil.

The following documents are available for review:

- **Interim Action Work Plan:** Plan for early partial cleanup actions to address contamination at the Site.
- **State Environmental Policy Act-Determination of Non-Significance:** Ecology determination that the cleanup work is not likely to harm the environment.

On-site walking tour (with Westman Marine Site)

RE Sources will host a tour of the Site with Ecology and Port staff:

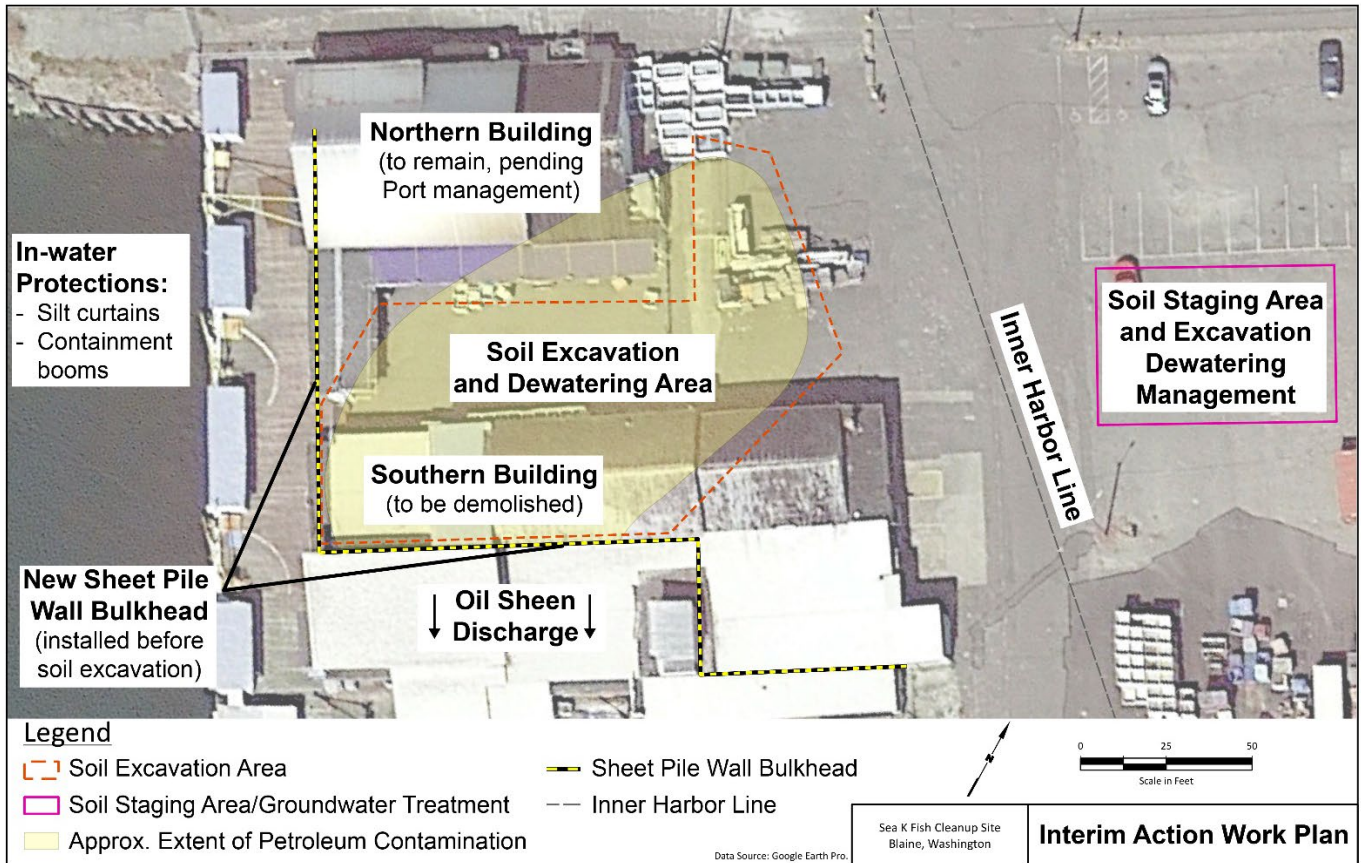
Wednesday, May 24, 2023; Noon – 1:30 p.m. at 218 McMillan Avenue, Blaine, WA www.re-sources.org/BlaineHarbor This tour is funded through a Public Participation Grant from Ecology.

Online public meeting (with Westman Marine Site)

Ecology will hold an online public meeting to provide information and answer questions:

Wednesday, May 24, 2023; 6:30 p.m. presentation;
7:30 p.m. question/answer time (as needed)

Visit www.bit.ly/Ecology-SeaKFish to register and join meeting. Call Ian Fawley, Outreach Planner, 425-324-5901, for dial-in options and other online meeting support.



Interim Action Work Plan

Due to historic contamination on the Site, the Port will perform an interim action, or early cleanup. In order to access the petroleum-contaminated soil, the Port will demolish the Site’s southern building and existing pier structure. The Port will install a new sheet pile bulkhead before removing the creosote-timber bulkhead and excavating the contaminated soil.

Approximately 3,000 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soil will be excavated and disposed offsite. Soil excavation may extend to 15 feet below the surface, depending on seasonal groundwater conditions and access constraints. The Port will manage groundwater entering the excavation area during construction.

After soil excavation, the Port will backfill with clean soil to return the Site to the same surface level and restore the Site’s hard surfaces (i.e. asphalt and/or concrete).

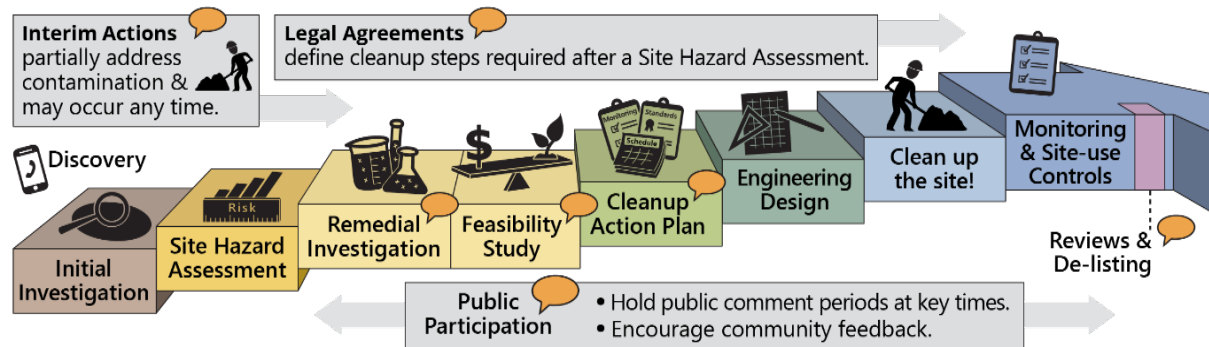


Oil sheen observed near Sea K Fish site

Washington’s formal cleanup process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) 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](#)¹ is completed in steps over a variable timeline (see graphic below).



What happens next?

- **May 22 – July 5, 2023:** 45-day public comment period.
- **May 24, 2023:** On-site walking tour (RE Sources-hosted) and online public meeting (Ecology-hosted).
- **Summer 2023:** Interim Action Work Plan finalized after addressing public comments received.
- **2023-2024:** Port completes engineering design, permitting, and interim action.

The Port will continue work on the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and draft Cleanup Action Plan. These cleanup steps will be available for public review and comment.

Costs and funding

The interim action work is expected to cost \$7.5 million. The Port is eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of remedial action costs from Ecology through the state’s [Remedial Action Grant Program](#)². 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.

En español

El Departamento de Ecología le invita a comentar sobre un reporte ambiental para el sitio que está contaminado Sea K Fish en Blaine.

Para recibir este documento en español, por favor llame a 425-324-5901 y espere a que un intérprete se una a la llamada o envíe un correo electrónico a preguntas@ecy.wa.gov. Traducciones de avisos públicos para este sitio de limpieza se preparan bajo solicitud.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Oversight-remedial-action-grants-loans>



Present-day aerial view of site in Blaine Harbor area

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 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.



1956 Aerial photo of Blaine Harbor

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.

Contamination

In 2019 and 2021, the Port conducted environmental investigations which showed contamination in soil and groundwater that exceeded cleanup levels allowed under the Model Toxics Control Act ([MTCA](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/MTCA)³):

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

³ <http://www.ecology.wa.gov/MTCA>

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

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Información en español incluida (página 3)

Public comment period

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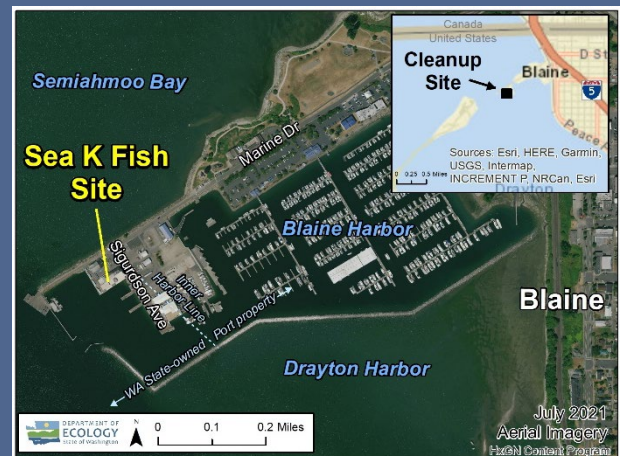
Public outreach events – see page 1 for details

May 24, 2023

- Noon: On-site walking tour (hosted by RE Sources)
- 6:30 p.m.: Online public meeting (hosted by Ecology)

ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-324-5901 or email at ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.



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