Lower Stillaguamish PIC
Phase 2 Overview

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIQ)
Executive Committee 9/27/18 Meeting
Sean Edwards, Senior Planner
Snohomish County SWM

Photo: Stillaguamish River flowing into Port Susan
Bacterial pollution of surface waters and groundwater

Tribal shellfish harvest rights threatened by bacterial pollution
Port Susan and South Skagit Bay commercial shellfish growing areas threatened by bacterial pollution
Warm Beach recreational use threatened by bacterial pollution

Beneficial uses of surface waters impaired

Bacterial pollution of surface waters and groundwater

Inadequate human sewage management
Inadequate livestock manure management
Inadequate pet waste management
Unknown wildlife contribution

On-site septic systems
Wastewater treatment plants
Commercial dairies
Grass-fed beef cattle operations
Commercial horse stables
Recreational horse stables
Pet owners not using BMPs
Rights Holders

Tribes
- Tulalip
- Stillaguamish
- Swinomish
- Upper Skagit

Commercial shellfish growers and tideland owners
- Trans Ocean Seafoods
- Camano Shellfish Co.
- The Nature Conservancy

Recreational water users
- Shoreline residents
- Boaters
- Fishermen

Duty Holders

Federal Agencies
- EPA
- USACE

WA State Agencies
- Ecology
- Agriculture
- Health
- Fish and Wildlife
- Natural Resources

Local Government Agencies
- Snohomish County
- Snohomish Health District
- City of Stanwood
- Stillaguamish Flood Control District

Private Landowners and Businesses
Water quality monitoring

- Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)
- Targeted storm event sampling and drainage system screening in 2 priority subbasins
- Investigatory sampling (up to 300 samples)
- Quarterly progress reporting of status and results
Regulatory compliance coordination

• Water pollution complaint investigation flowchart
• Quarterly inter-agency coordination meetings
• Quarterly progress reporting on status of PIC cases
Education and outreach

Stakeholder engagement
  • Quarterly updates for SWC

PIC education and outreach events
  • Warm Beach Summerfest (August)
  • Shellfish Dinner (November)

Technical assistance

Cost-share incentives
  • Savvy Septic for on-site septic systems
  • Discretionary Fund for agricultural BMPs

Quarterly progress reporting
Successes
• Significant FC sources identified and corrected
• Improved inter-agency cooperation
• Compliance enforcement at permitted commercial facilities
• Commercial dairy compliance
• Technical and financial assistance for landowners
• PIC conceptual framework and theory of change

Challenges
• Integration of PIC with NPDES
• Ambiguity of water quality monitoring results
• Recent high FC results at marine sampling stations
• Overlapping regulatory jurisdictions
• Integration of water quality monitoring, E&O, and regulatory compliance
• Lack of partner agency capacity
• Limited tribal and non-tribal shellfish harvesting
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