

Good News!

On-the-ground projects have helped improve water quality, allowing commercial shellfish harvest to be re-opened in Port Susan and South Skagit Bay.

Wastewater treatment plant upgrades, dairy waste management, and septic system maintenance are making a difference. In 2009, the South Skagit Bay commercial shellfish harvest area was expanded to 2,200 acres. And in 2010, the Port Susan commercial shellfish harvest area was re-opened for 1,800 acres.

The challenge now is to protect these water quality improvements for shellfish harvest and continue to clean up the streams and river reaches that are impaired for recreational use.



Softshell clam from South Skagit Bay

YOU Can Make A Difference!

- If you own a **septic system**, inspect your system for proper operation and maintenance every year and pump it out every 3–5 years.
- If you own **livestock**, keep them and their manure out of local streams, wetlands, ponds, and marine shorelines.
- If you own **pets**, scoop the poop, bag it, and throw it in the trash.
- If you **want to get involved**, participate in CWD Advisory Board meetings and other community-based activities.



Stillaguamish River flowing into Port Susan

For More Information

The Clean Water District (CWD) **Discretionary Fund** is available to assist private landowners, community groups, and/or local agencies in undertaking small scale, on-the-ground projects to improve water quality for shellfish protection on private or public property anywhere in the CWD. Contact us to see if your property qualifies for funding to implement water quality projects.

To learn more about the CWD, the Discretionary Fund, and other services available to CWD residents, visit www.cwd.surfacewater.info or contact: Sean Edwards, Senior Planner
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425-388-3024
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Do you live in the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District?

(check map inside)



Help preserve the beauty, recreational use, and potential for shellfish harvest by joining the effort to clean up streams and river reaches within the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District.

The Water Quality Problem

In 1987, the Washington Department of Health closed 18,000 acres of tidelands in South Skagit Bay and Port Susan to commercial shellfish harvest due to fecal bacteria pollution from the Stillaguamish River.

The Stillaguamish River and its stream reaches exceed the bacterial pollution standards for recreational water uses. Sources of this pollution include human sanitary waste, livestock, pets, and wildlife.

Working Towards A Solution

In 1993, the Snohomish County Council created the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District and established an advisory board representing local landowners, agencies, and businesses.

- **Landowners** within the Clean Water District pay fees that provide water quality and water quantity management services in the Stillaguamish River Basin.
- **Snohomish County** prepares the annual Clean Water District work program and budget; and offers technical and financial assistance to Clean Water District residents for water quality projects.
- **The Clean Water District Advisory Board** provides recommendations on funding levels and priorities and makes recommendations to organizations working on water quality, water quantity, and aquatic habitat issues. **Meetings are open to the public.** For more information, visit www.cwd.surfacewater.info.



Many opportunities are available to participate in community projects that improve water quality and provide shellfish protection. Technical and funding assistance is also available to CWD residents for water quality projects.

2010 Stillaguamish Clean Water District (CWD)

