

Hi everybody – the last update had Storm Team results from rain event on the weekend of March 10-11 that resulted in a pollution closure for the bay. Here are some subsequent sampling results, starting with March 12:

**3/12/2012 Post-storm sampling** River at 500 cfs, still declining from 814 cfs peak on 3/10, rainfall = 0.24"

Location	Site Number	Fecal Coliform, cfu/100 mL
Samish River at Thomas Road	32A	240
Samish River at Thomas Road	32B	130

While these numbers were not great, they were low enough to reopen the bay on 3/14 (two-day waiting period after clean samples following pollution closure).

Samish River loading to the bay for this at 240 cfu was 2.9 trillion bacteria/day, well under the 4.7 trillion limit.

On Tuesday, March 13, the Shellfish Office completed a study of bay currents and fecal coliform counts off of Colony Creek/McElroy Slough. Skagit County personnel collected freshwater samples to coincide with the study. Here are the results:

**3/13/12 Colony Creek current study (DOH Shellfish Office study, Skagit County samples)**

River at 560 cfs, declining from overnight peak of 609 cfs, rainfall =

Location	Site Number	Fecal Coliform, cfu/100 mL
Colony Creek at Colony Rd	39A	33
Colony Creek at Colony Rd	39B	17
Colony Creek at tidegate	CCCR-A	17
Colony Creek at tidegate	CCCR-B	17
Ditch draining to McElroy Slough	MCEGATE-A	23
Ditch draining to McElroy Slough	MCEGATE-B	7.8
Samish River at Thomas Road	32A	79
Samish River at Thomas Road	32B	79

Relatively low numbers all around. Results from the bay sampling not yet available. Samish River loading was 1.1 trillion bacteria/day.

On March 15, Skagit County personnel completed normal ambient sampling in the Samish Basin. Here are the results from that sampling:

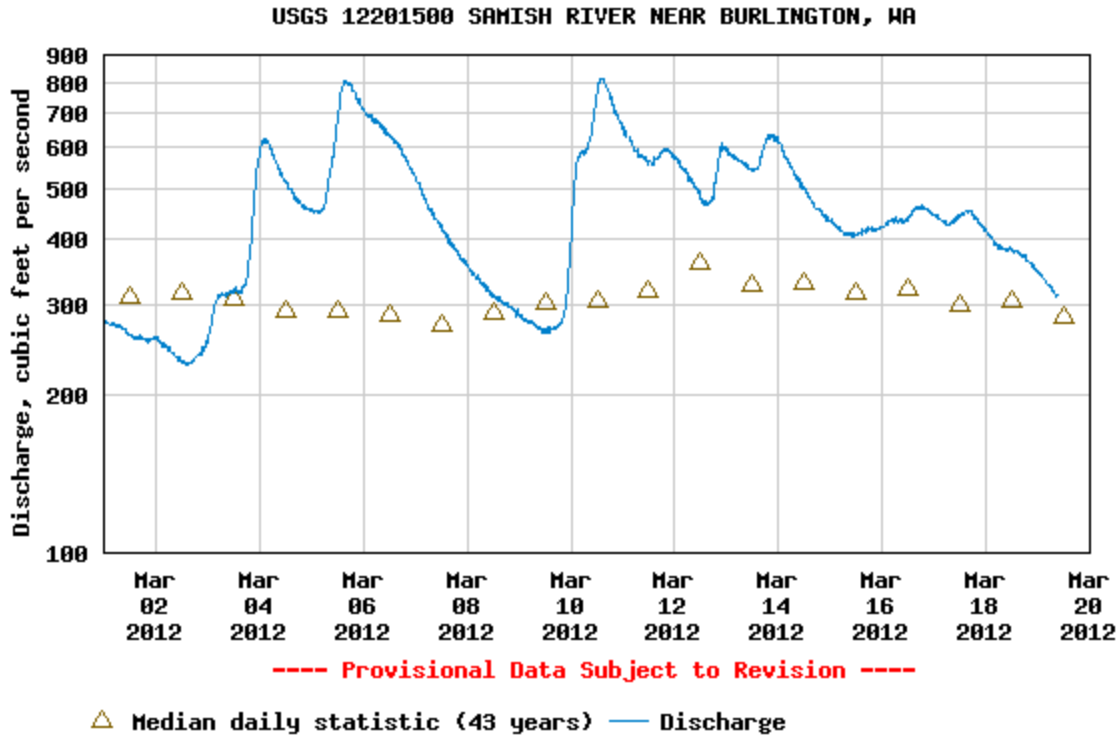
**3/15/12 Regular ambient sampling**

River at 411 cfs and steady, rainfall = 0.00"

<b>Location (time sampled)</b>	<b>Site Number</b>	<b>Fecal Coliform, cfu/100 mL</b>	<b>Duplicate</b>
Samish River at Hwy 9	11	6.8	
Samish River at upper Prairie Rd	SAM3PR	Not sampled	
Parsons Creek at mouth	PAR	2	4.5
Samish River above Parsons Creek	SAMPAR	7.8	
Samish River at Double Creek Ln	SAMDCL	Not sampled	
Skarrup Creek at Double Creek Ln	SKAR	49	
Samish River at 1st Prairie Rd	SAM1PR	Not sampled	
Samish River at Grip Road	SAMGRIP	Not sampled	
Swede Creek at Grip Rd	8	33	
Samish River at F&S Grade Rd	SAMFS	7.8	
Weir Creek Prairie Rd	WCPR	Not sampled	
Friday Creek at Prairie Rd	6	4.5	
Samish River at Hwy 99	SAMH99	Not sampled	
Thomas Creek at F&S Grade Rd	4	49	
Thomas Creek at Hwy 99	3	13	
Samish River at Chuckanut Drive	SAMCD	Not sampled	
Samish River at Thomas Rd	32	17	46
Alice Bay Pump Station	33	11	
Edison Slough at School	36	23	
Edison Pump Station	37	49	
North Edison Pump Station	38	49	
Colony Creek at Colony Road	39	7.8	9.3

**This may be overall the lowest set of fecal coliform results we've ever had for the Samish Basin.** Nothing over 49 cfu, even in the ag drainages that normally have higher counts. Most samples well under that. Samish River loading using the 17 cfu regular sampling was 0.2 trillion bacteria/day. Using the 46 cfu duplicate, loading was 0.5 trillion.

The Samish River has been flowing well above normal for most of March – the triangles in the graph below indicate median flow for the date based on 43 years of data.



Reminder: State freshwater water quality standards for the Samish River and all other stations in the Samish Basin call for a geometric mean of less than 100 cfu/100 ml, with no more than 10% of the samples to exceed 200 cfu/100 ml. The state enacts a pollution closure if the loading is over 4.7 trillion bacteria/day.