

On Thursday, March 29, the Samish River experienced a 223 cfs rise based on a rain event that accumulated 0.56" in the lowlands. Because the river rise occurred in the afternoon, Skagit County sampling (at 1430 and 1500) occurred fairly early on the rise of the hydrograph.

County 3/29/12 Rainfall 0.56, river at 148-157 cfs and rising

Location (Time)	Site Number	Fecal Coliform, cfu/100 mL	Duplicate	River flow (cfs)	Peak Loading (trillions)	Avg. Loading (trillions)
Samish River at Thomas Rd (1430)	32	350	130	148	1.3	0.87
Samish River at Thomas Rd (1500)	32	49	27	157	0.19	0.15

These samples showed loadings well below the 4.7 trillion criteria, but were too early on the hydrograph for the State Shellfish Office to make a final determination. Instead, they opted to wait for results from Friday morning sampling, which occurred after the peak of the hydrograph.

Friday morning results:

County 3/30/12 Rainfall 0.05, river at 287 cfs and falling

Location (Time)	Site Number	Fecal Coliform, cfu/100 mL	Duplicate	River flow (cfs)	Peak Loading (trillions)	Avg. Loading (trillions)
Samish River at Thomas Road (1435)	32	350	240	287	2.5	2.1

These samples were also below the criteria, so the state reopened the bay on Saturday morning when the results were available. This does not count as a pollution closure as no samples were above the closure criteria.

The state's management plan indicates that in April, a 100-cfs rise will trigger a cfs closure. On Sunday, April 1, the river rose 143 cfs, so currently Samish Bay is closed again. Storm Team obtained samples near the peak of the hydrograph (thanks Pete). These results should be available early this afternoon to determine if the bay will remain closed (pollution closure) or reopened.