



**DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION DISTRICT
Special Subcommittee Meeting Agenda**

Date: October 26, 2021
Time: 2:30-4:00pm
Place: **Zoom Meeting** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87053961254>

Agenda

Drayton Harbor SPDAC		
1.	2:30	Introductions
2.	2:35	Public Comment
3.	2:40	Shellfish Recovery Plan Update: Boats and Marinas Section <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina and WWTP Closure Zones• 2007 Marina Recommendations Status• Anchoring Boats Discussion• Updates to Recommendations
9.	4:00	Adjourn

2007 Drayton Harbor Shellfish Recovery Plan

Objective Seven

Boats and Marinas

Two marinas operate at the entrance of Drayton Harbor. The Semiahmoo Marina Condominium Association operates a 300-slip marina for pleasure boats, including a marine repair and fuel facility, and currently has eleven live-aboards. The Port of Bellingham maintains Blaine Harbor, which currently has 680 slips. Blaine Harbor supports commercial fishing vessels, fish processing facilities, and pleasure boats, including 50 live-aboards. Due to the number and variety of vessels that actively use the Blaine Harbor, this marina represents a greater potential source of pollution to Drayton Harbor (DOH Sanitary Survey 1995). As has been reported to the DHSPDAC, all live-aboard vessels in Blaine Harbor were inspected in 2003. New live-aboards are inspected when the residents move onboard.

The State Health Department's ambient water quality data, Western Washington University's oyster tissue sampling, and current water quality monitoring conducted by the Port of Bellingham all show high fecal coliform levels recorded in the commercial section of Blaine Harbor as discussed earlier in this report. This indicates that there continues to be a significant nearby source(s) impacting the Blaine Harbor. In 2003, after considering the studies and system repairs around Blaine Harbor, the State Department of Health questioned the impact the bird population had on water quality within the marina.

Recommendations

7A: Establish routine reporting on number and types of Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD) in Blaine Harbor and report to DHSPDAC.

High Priority

The Port of Bellingham inspected each live-aboard vessel for proper MSDs and reported the results to DHSPDAC and DOH in 2003. Inspections of MSDs continues for new live-aboards as they are approved for live-aboard status.

Recommendation: The Committee should request updates on MSD inspections on a quarterly basis and include this information in reports to DOH. Encourage the Port of Bellingham to develop a strategy for regular inspections and pump-outs for existing liveaboards. The strategy should include a system for monitoring useage of pump-outs and identifying violators (e.g. dye tablets).

7B: Continue distribution of educational materials regarding water quality specific to Drayton Harbor and environmental regulations via “Marina Update” newsletter and marina signs.

Moderate Priority

The Port has, on occasion, included environmental updates and education in the Blaine Harbor newsletters. A greater focus has been placed on educating boaters through a Pledge Program. PSRF developed and installed signs in eight locations in Blaine Harbor and Drayton Harbor warning boaters not to discharge sewage. The Port installed signs warning boaters that direct discharge of sewage was punishable with a \$10,000 fine. The Port also installed signs directing boaters to pump-out stations.

Recommendation: The Committee encourages continued education of boaters in Drayton Harbor through coordination with other Port educational projects and communication to boaters and tenants in Blaine Harbor. A particular emphasis should be placed on pump-out stations, marine sanitation devices, and other Best Management Practices that help protect water quality.

7C: Continue work with Blaine Seafood Processors to address water quality issues related to operations and discharge to ensure water quality improvements continue.

Low Priority

The BSF NPDES permit was updated in 2001. DOE receives monthly water quality reports from BSP to track fecal coliform levels in outfall effluent. This new permit conditions required a reduction in fecal coliform levels in the outfall effluent and repairs to the outfall pipe. The current permit will expire in 2006. The Port of Bellingham, Whatcom County Water Resources, and PSRF met with Blaine Harbor commercial tenants in 2002 to discuss water quality issues in the harbor and provide information about Best Management Practices to reduce impacts.

Recommendation: Ecology should continue to insure Blaine Seafood Processors are meeting their NPDES permit requirements. Request BSP continue to share water quality data with Whatcom County Water Resources to be included in the Shellfish Protection District database.