

A brief but intense rain system targeted the Samish Basin Friday night/Saturday morning, resulting in a rapid river rise of approximately 150 cfs, enough to close the bay to shellfish harvest. Storm Team volunteers sampled the Samish River on Saturday afternoon near the peak of the river rise, and Sunday morning just in case. The Saturday samples had extremely high fecal coliform counts, leading to a confirmed closure of the bay. The Sunday samples were much cleaner and the bay will reopen tomorrow (Tuesday) morning.

Here are the disappointing results:

Samish River samples 5/18-19/13						
Saturday, May 18, 2013 Storm sample						
	Storm Team	Rainfall	0.33 . Samish River at 238 cfs and peaking			
Site Number	Site No.	Result (FC, cfu)	Duplicate	Second sample	Arg	Samish River loading (trillions per day)
Samish River at Thomas Road	32	4083	2010	2480	2951	17
Sunday, May 19, 2013 Storm follow-up						
	Storm Team	Rainfall	0.00 . Samish River at 148 cfs and falling			
Site Number	Site No.	Result (FC, cfu)	Duplicate	Arg	Samish River loading (trillions per day)	
Samish River at Thomas Road	32	280	248	247.5	0.9	

Rick Haley
 Water Quality Analyst
 Skagit County Public Works
 Water Resources Management
 1800 Continental Place
 Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
rickh@co.skagit.wa.us
 360-419-3424
 360-336-9400