

Skagit County took their normal ambient samples in the Samish Basin on Tuesday, November 22, during the early part of a significant river rise that continued into Wednesday. The Tuesday ambient results:

Tuesday, 11/22/2011 – samples obtained during early part of river rise

Location	Site Number	Fecal Coliform, cfu/100 mL	Duplicate
Samish River at Hwy 9	11	13	
Samish River at upper Prairie Rd	SAM3PR	33	
Parsons Creek at mouth	PAR	33	
Samish River above Parsons Creek	SAMPAR	350	
Samish River at Double Creek Ln	SAMDCL	170	
Skarrup Creek at Double Creek Ln	SKAR	350	
Samish River at 1st Prairie Rd	SAM1PR	350	
Samish River at Grip Road	SAMGRIP	920	
Swede Creek at Grip Rd	8	920	
Samish River at F&S Grade Rd	SAMFS	220	
Weir Creek Prairie Rd	WCPR	N/A	
Friday Creek at Prairie Rd	6	350	
Samish River at Hwy 99	SAMH99	920	
Thomas Creek at F&S Grade Rd	4	540	
Thomas Creek at Hwy 99	3	23	
Samish River at Chuckanut Drive	SAMCD	350	
Samish River at Thomas Rd	32	110	130
Alice Bay Pump Station	33	540	
Edison Slough at School	36	220	23
Edison Pump Station	37	23	
North Edison Pump Station	38	1100	
Colony Creek at Colony Road	39	170	

These results show the typical low numbers in the headwaters (Samish River at Hwy 9 and upper Prairie Rd), with higher numbers through the middle reaches of the river and tributaries in that stretch, and comparatively low numbers for the Samish River at Thomas Road – perhaps the plume of coliform bacteria had not reached there at the time of sampling (approx 3:00 pm). Pump station results ranged from quite low (Edison) to quite high (North Edison)

Continued rain Tuesday night and Wednesday resulted in a 750-cfs rise in the river, far above the 200-cfs presumptive Samish Bay closure criteria. The Storm Team took samples Wed, Thurs, and Friday, results

listed below. The Wednesday samples were high enough to confirm the bay closure, but did not reach the 4-digit levels that might have occurred in the past. Since the flow was relatively high, this event had a higher loading than we would like to see at this point in the cleanup process, but I haven't done that math yet to see where it fits in. Thursday and Friday samples showed the coliform counts declining as we would expect. Samish Bay reopened Monday morning (today).

Wednesday, 11/23/2011, 10:00 am	Storm Team – sampled during rise in river		
Samish River at Thomas Rd	Site 32	400	492

Wednesday, 11/23/11, 12:30 pm	Storm Team – sampled near peak flow		
Samish River at Thomas Rd	Site 32	660	516

Thursday, 11/24/11, 10:30 am	Storm Team – declining river		
Samish River at Thomas Rd	Site 32	250	152

Friday, 11/25/11, 10:00 am	Storm Team – declining river		
Samish River at Thomas Rd	Site 32	180	104

Please note that the Storm Team “duplicates” are not true duplicates, but rather the result from a second, different dilution of the original sample.

Also please note that I've attached the statewide closure list from Saturday – note that this rain event closed many (most?) growing areas in the state, not just Samish Bay.