



# HOOD CANAL REGIONAL POLLUTION IDENTIFICATION AND CORRECTION (PIC) PROGRAM 2017-2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

The Hood Canal Regional PIC program is a cooperative effort to identify, investigate, and proactively correct fecal pollution sources that drain to the Hood Canal shoreline. We work directly with community members to protect clean water and beaches and keep our community healthy.

## Why is the PIC program important?

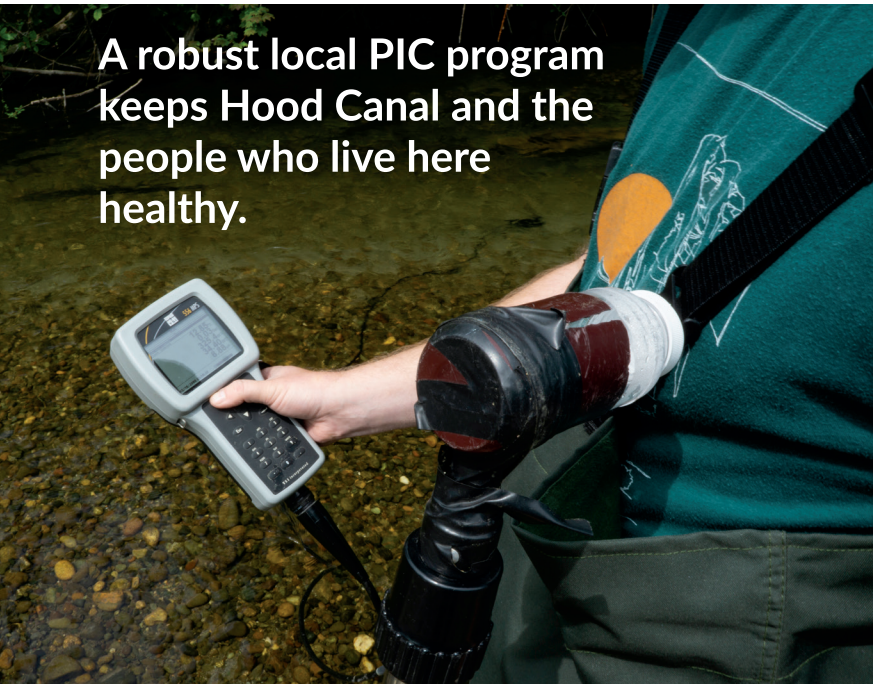
Clean water is the key to preserving Hood Canal’s human health, robust tourism, recreational appeal, and rich natural resources—including shellfish and finfish, which offer important economic, cultural, and subsistence value to residents and tribes statewide. The PIC program is focused on protecting our clean water by proactively identifying, investigating, and addressing threats to prevent further harm.

In addition, because our regional approach consolidates grant applications, contracts, quality assurance plans, expertise, labor hours, and reporting, individual program partners experience the full benefits of the program at a fraction of the cost. In turn, each partner brings a broad range of resources and knowledge to help us address challenging pollution problems.

The PIC team collects water samples along drainages to Hood Canal shorelines, looking for fecal pollution that puts Hood Canal at risk. When they find pollution, they track it back to the source, and work with neighbors to fix the issue.



**A robust local PIC program keeps Hood Canal and the people who live here healthy.**



## SEPTIC SLEUTHING

Between 2017 and 2019, the regional team walked 66.6 miles of priority Hood Canal shorelines and sampled all fresh waters draining to the beach. We focused on places where people swim, fish, and harvest shellfish, because that’s where human health is most at risk.

We identified multiple “hotspots” with high fecal pollution and visited 380 properties in those drainage areas to look for fecal pollution sources. During each visit, we provided site-specific tips on how to get the most life possible from septic systems.

The team worked closely with 28 property owners to complete needed on-site septic system (OSS) repairs, providing free technical assistance to support these community members in correcting their pollution sources voluntarily.





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The regional PIC team provides a coordinated approach and works collaboratively with the community to protect clean water on Hood Canal beaches.

## RESULTS THROUGH COLLABORATION: 2017-2019 Highlights

### Agency Outcomes

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY

- 59.5 shoreline miles
- 190 site visits
- 41 OSS failures
- 21 OSS repairs

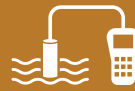
#### MASON COUNTY

- 6.3 shoreline miles
- 102 site visits
- 9 OSS failures
- 3 OSS repairs

#### KITSAP COUNTY

- 0.8 shoreline miles
- 88 site visits
- 5 OSS failures
- 4 OSS repairs

### Overall Outcomes



# 66

SHORELINE MILES INSPECTED



# 380

SITE VISITS CONDUCTED



# 55

OSS FAILURES IDENTIFIED



# 28

OSS REPAIRS COMPLETED

## CASE STUDY RESTORING HOODSPORT

Hoodsport is a vibrant and historic community with miles of shoreline, rich shellfish resources, and aging septic systems. Area shorelines have been closed to shellfish harvesting for decades due to septic system pollution. The Hood Canal PIC partners—led by the Skokomish Tribe, Mason County, and Washington State Department of Health (DOH)—have been working diligently to prevent and correct pollution sources to open the shellfish beds to harvest. We have seen water quality improvements as a result of this work and it will allow DOH to evaluate reopening shellfish harvest in Hoodsport.

### COLLABORATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Skokomish Tribe alerted the team to rich shellfish resources in Hoodsport and assisted with Hoodsport water quality monitoring
- ▶ Mason County conducted Hoodsport shoreline investigations and identified seven failing septic systems—two are repaired, and five are in the correction process
- ▶ Water quality has improved at six of the nine shoreline pollution hotspots due to PIC activities in the drainage, as we await additional OSS corrections in progress



## We Need Your Support

Clean water is crucial to the health of the Hood Canal community. It is also essential to safe recreation and its economic benefits.

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council developed the PIC program to protect Hood Canal, and continuation of our work will require a stable funding source. Grant funding is becoming harder to secure, but the challenges that the PIC program addresses are urgent and ongoing. A robust PIC program requires a sustainable funding source to meet the needs of our communities today and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.