

# Drayton Harbor Shoreline

## Water Quality Status: Fecal Coliform Bacteria

December 2022

### Background

Clean water is a valuable resource; it is essential for human health and for the health of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and livestock. Water provides irrigation for crops and a safe place for water-based recreation. To maintain safe shellfish harvest, Washington State has developed standards for fecal bacteria in marine waters. Meeting the fecal coliform benchmarks in freshwater systems leads to satisfying the marine water standards to protect public health.

### Freshwater Benchmarks

#### Geometric Mean

Average sample contains less than:

**100 fecal coliform/100mL**

- and -

#### 90th Percentile

Less than 10% of samples contain over:

**200 fecal coliform/100mL**

### Routine Monitoring:

Whatcom County Public Works (WCPW) has monitored fecal coliform bacteria as part of the short-term ambient sampling in Drayton Harbor and along the shoreline since June of 2018.

More information is available at:

[www.whatcomcounty.us/1072/waterquality](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/1072/waterquality)



### What are Fecal Coliform Bacteria?

Fecal coliform bacteria are found in human and animal feces. Detection in a creek is a sign that pathogens from these wastes may be polluting the water. Contact with fecal contaminated waters can result in **gastroenteritis, skin rashes, upper respiratory infections** and other illnesses.

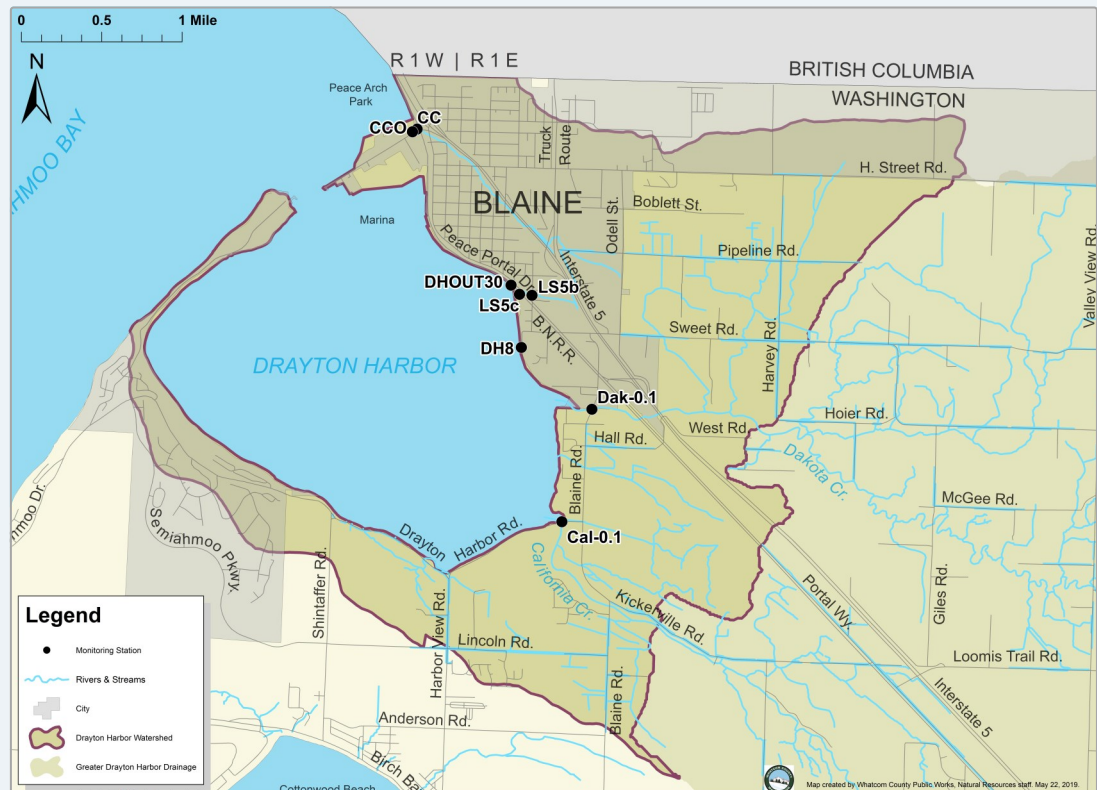
**E. coli are a fecal coliform bacteria!**

### Where Does the Bacteria Come From?

Potential sources of bacteria include:

- 1) Animal waste from livestock, domestic pets, and wildlife
- 2) Human sewage from failing septic systems, leaking sewer lines or cross-connections between sewer and stormwater systems

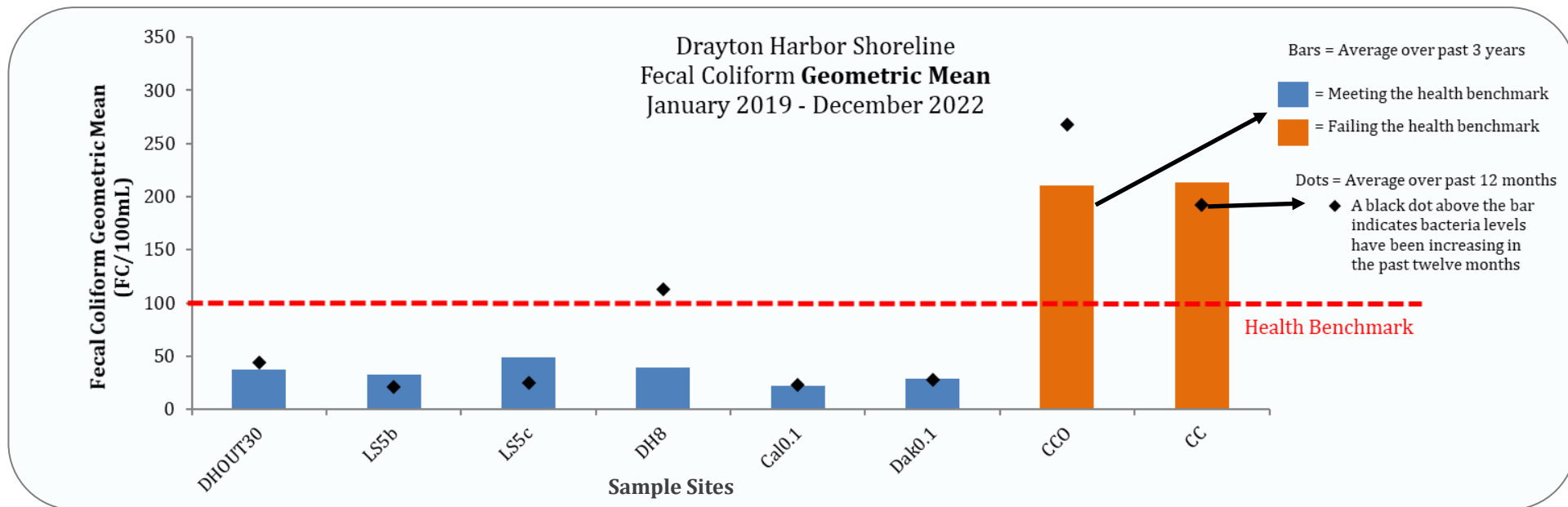
### Whatcom County Public Works Drayton Harbor Shoreline Water Quality Monitoring Stations



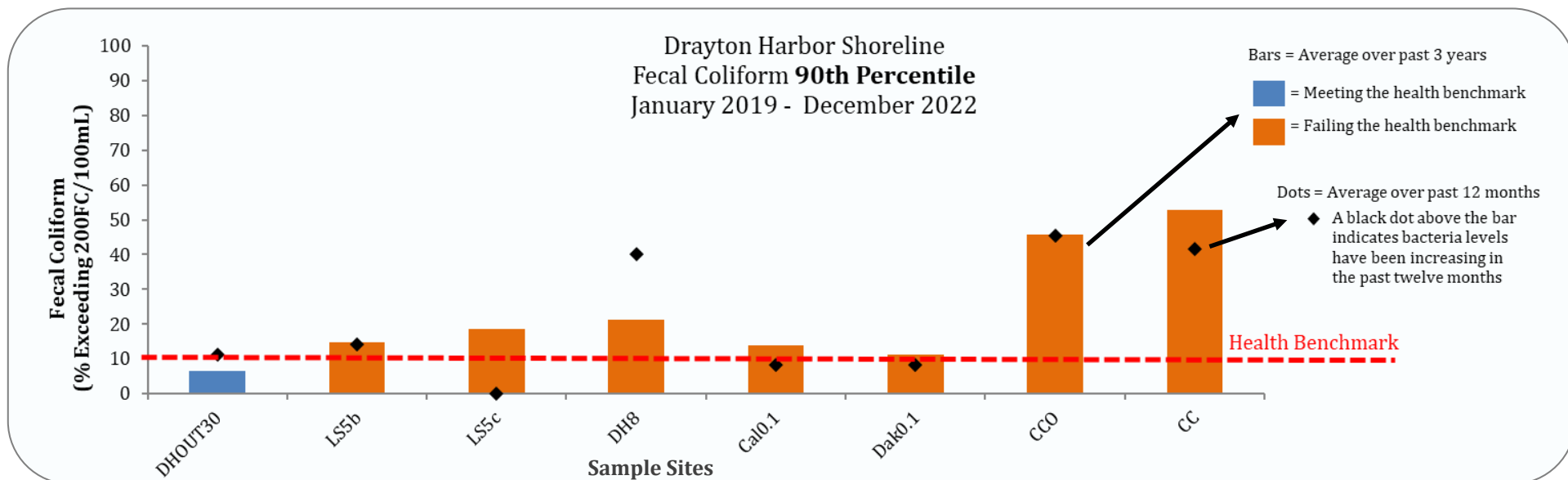
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### Comparison of Bacteria Levels to Health Benchmarks

For site locations, refer to the map on page 1 or the table on page 3.



\*The bar must be blue on both graphs for the sample site to be meeting the freshwater health benchmark.



Note: samples collected monthly in coordination with WA DOH marine samples on Drayton Harbor.

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### 13-Month Historical Fecal Coliform Bacteria Data

This table provides the individual results at each station for the past thirteen months.  
Results in light orange exceeded 200 FC/100mL. Results in dark orange exceed 1,000 FC/100mL.

Date	Site Access Point		Outfall SW from Madison Ave.	Bayview north of Albert St.	Outfall west of LS5b	Outfall at south end of Montfort ave.	Mouth of California Creek	Mouth of Dakota Creek	Drainage east of Marine Dr, W of railroad	Cain Creek culvert on N. side of Marine Dr, W of railroad
	Rainfall Data									
	24 hr*	72 hr**	DHOUT30	LS5b	LS5c	DH8	Cal0.1	Dak0.1	CCO	CC
12/14/21	0.01	0.65	16	15	46	7	18	20	470	25
1/11/22	0.95	0.16	18	7	7	46	22	20	80	235
2/8/22	0.06	NR	4	33	42	9	2	13	80	25
3/15/22	0.26	1.40	100	8	42	500	340	370	1,900	164
4/6/22	0.00	0.46	84	5	3	1,000	21	108	66	100
5/19/22	0.00	0.13	25	80	48	11	15	40	98	550
6/16/22	0.00	0.01	46	220	136	21	82	64	109	155
7/14/22	0.00	0.00	6,000	D	ST	6,000	52	88	380	800
8/17/22	0.00	0.00	D	D	D	D	30	7	330	11,600
9/7/22	0.00	NR	LF	D	D	D	31	36	5,800	106
10/26/22	0.10	0.93	20	D	ST	6,000	64	13	700	290
11/15/22	0.00	0.00	7	ST	ST	28	3	13	116	26
12/15/22	0.00	0.02	HT	13	HT	7	5	2	NA	42

Gray box indicates no sample was collected for varying reasons. D- Dry, LF- Low Flow, HT- Tide too high to sample, NA-No Access, TNS - Temporarily Not Sampling.

All rainfall data taken from the Bertrand Creek stream flow monitoring station. NR- Not Recorded

\*Day of sampling event (inches) \*\*Three days prior to, but not including, day of sampling event (inches)

<sup>1</sup>Rainfall data collected from CoCoRAHS station WA-WC-29.