



South Holmes Harbor Shellfish Protection District
ISLAND COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
For all who live, work or own land
in the purple areas (map on back)

Friday, May 2, 6:30 pm
Freeland Hall

1515 Shoreview Drive, just uphill and west of Freeland County Park

Fecal bacteria in South Holmes Harbor can make shellfish unsafe for humans to eat. That is why the waters there have been closed to commercial shellfish harvesting by the State Dept. of Health. Recreational shellfish harvesting is not recommended, and the County Public Health Department cautions against swimming or wading in South Holmes Harbor.

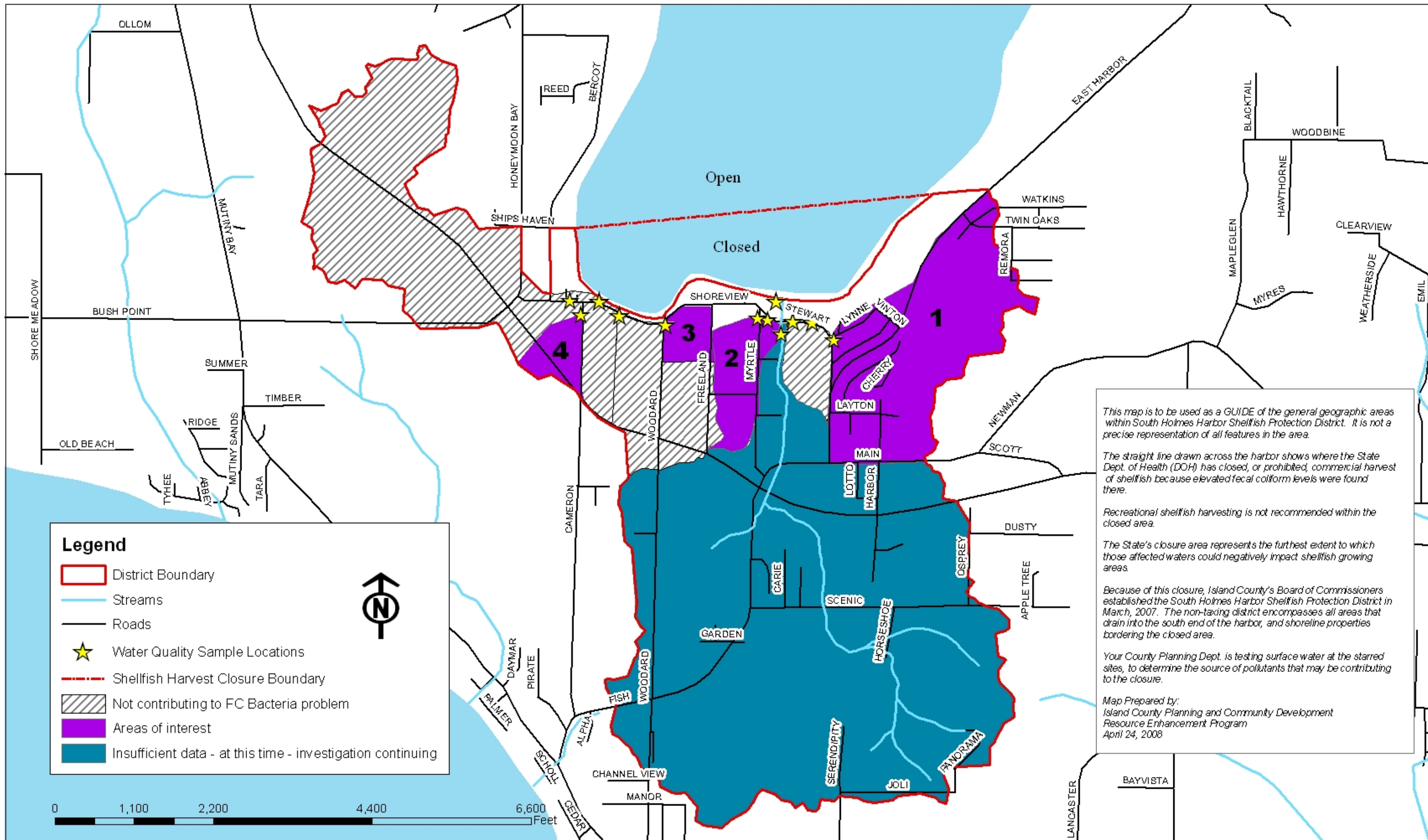
Over a year ago, your County established the South Holmes Harbor Shellfish Protection District, in keeping with State requirements, and began monitoring surface water quality. As information is collected and evaluated, water sampling will occur further and further upstream as we track the bacteria sources.

Preliminary results from the sampling of your neighborhood's surface water (runoff) show elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria have been present within the past 6-18 months. This means that when rainwater flowed downhill through your neighborhood and into Holmes Harbor, it had fecal matter in it -- animal and/or human waste.

This does not mean that your property, or workplace, or residence, or neighborhood is the sole cause of the bacteria. And, it is unlikely that the contamination is caused by a single source. Rather, it is probably a combination of problems from throughout the district -- failed septic systems, improper pet waste disposal, inadequate livestock manure and mud management, and wildlife droppings.

As we continue to identify neighborhood problems, we are working with residents to help them solve their problems. If you live, work or own land in the purple areas on the map (see back), please come to the get-together at Freeland Hall on Friday, May 2, 6:30 - 8:30 pm (late arrivals okay). You'll have a chance to talk privately with County workers, meet with farm and garden professionals and septic specialists, and learn how to

- **manage animal manure & mud** 6:35 pm
- **control and contain runoff from your land** 7:05 pm
- **keep your septic in good working condition** 7:35 pm
- **dispose of pet waste – don't flush or bury** 8:15 pm
- **avoid attracting wildlife & vermin** 8:25 pm



Legend

- District Boundary
- Streams
- Roads
- ★ Water Quality Sample Locations
- Shellfish Harvest Closure Boundary
- Not contributing to FC Bacteria problem
- Areas of interest
- Insufficient data - at this time - investigation continuing



This map is to be used as a GUIDE of the general geographic areas within South Holmes Harbor Shellfish Protection District. It is not a precise representation of all features in the area.

The straight line drawn across the harbor shows where the State Dept. of Health (DOH) has closed, or prohibited, commercial harvest of shellfish because elevated fecal coliform levels were found there.

Recreational shellfish harvesting is not recommended within the closed area.

The State's closure area represents the furthest extent to which those affected waters could negatively impact shellfish growing areas.

Because of this closure, Island County's Board of Commissioners established the South Holmes Harbor Shellfish Protection District in March, 2007. The non-taxing district encompasses all areas that drain into the south end of the harbor, and shoreline properties bordering the closed area.

Your County Planning Dept. is testing surface water at the starred sites, to determine the source of pollutants that may be contributing to the closure.

*Map Prepared by:
Island County Planning and Community Development
Resource Enhancement Program
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