



The straight line drawn across the harbor shows where the State Dept. of Health (DOH) has closed the area to shellfish harvesting because elevated levels of fecal coliform were found there. To be safe for human consumption, shellfish need clean water.

WA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's prohibition of shell fishing in South Holmes Harbor is enforced under RCW 77.15.380 and WAC 220.56.350.

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

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

Surface water quality monitoring has been taking place in the Holmes Harbor area since late 2006. To determine the source of contaminants that may be contributing to the shellfish harvest closure, scientists with your County's Dept. of Planning & Community Development first began testing at low points in the affected watersheds, sampling runoff at outfalls and pour points. As they continue to track the sources of the fecal coliform bacteria, some monitoring locations (starred) change as their search moves upland.

This map is 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.

Map prepared by  
Island County Planning & Community Development  
Resource Enhancement Program  
January 2009