

# Shellfish Farming and Water Quality

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# Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA)

Founded in 1930, based in Olympia

PCSGA's mission is to ensure a healthy social, regulatory, and natural environment for shellfish farming on the West Coast.

Washington growers are leaders in **sustainable** shellfish farming

**Represent** nearly 100 members in Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska and Hawaii and 12 members based in Shelton



# Environmental Benefits

Shellfish are filter feeders

Adult Pacific oyster can filter up to 65 gal/day

Reduce excess nutrients in marine waters,  
improve water clarity

Some estimates show on average farmed shellfish remove 275-581 kg of nitrogen from the water per year per hectare (Barrett et al. 2022)

Provide habitat/foraging opportunity for other marine species, including economically important/endangered species



# Environmental Challenges

Invasive shellfish predator species: green crab, oyster drill

Water pollution

Climate Change/heat waves

Ocean Acidification

Native species restoration

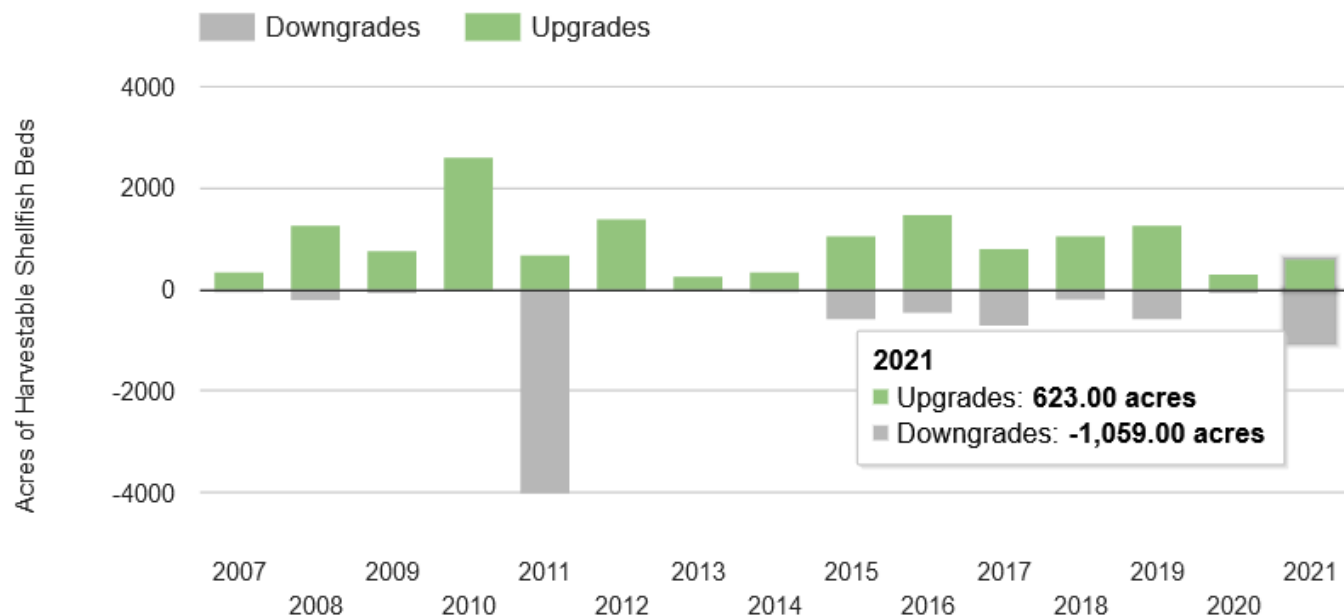
Shellfish disease



## Area of harvestable shellfish beds

By: Classification change

Options ▾



Area (acres) of harvestable shellfish beds where the Washington Department of Health classification has changed. Upgrades in classification mean that water quality has improved, allowing for fewer restrictions on shellfish harvest. Downgrades mean there are either more restrictions on when shellfish may be harvested or harvest is not allowed. Cumulative change in area since 2007 is shown by the blue line.

# Growing Areas



Office of Environmental Health and Safety  
Commercial Shellfish Map Viewer



Data



Legend



Draw



Clear

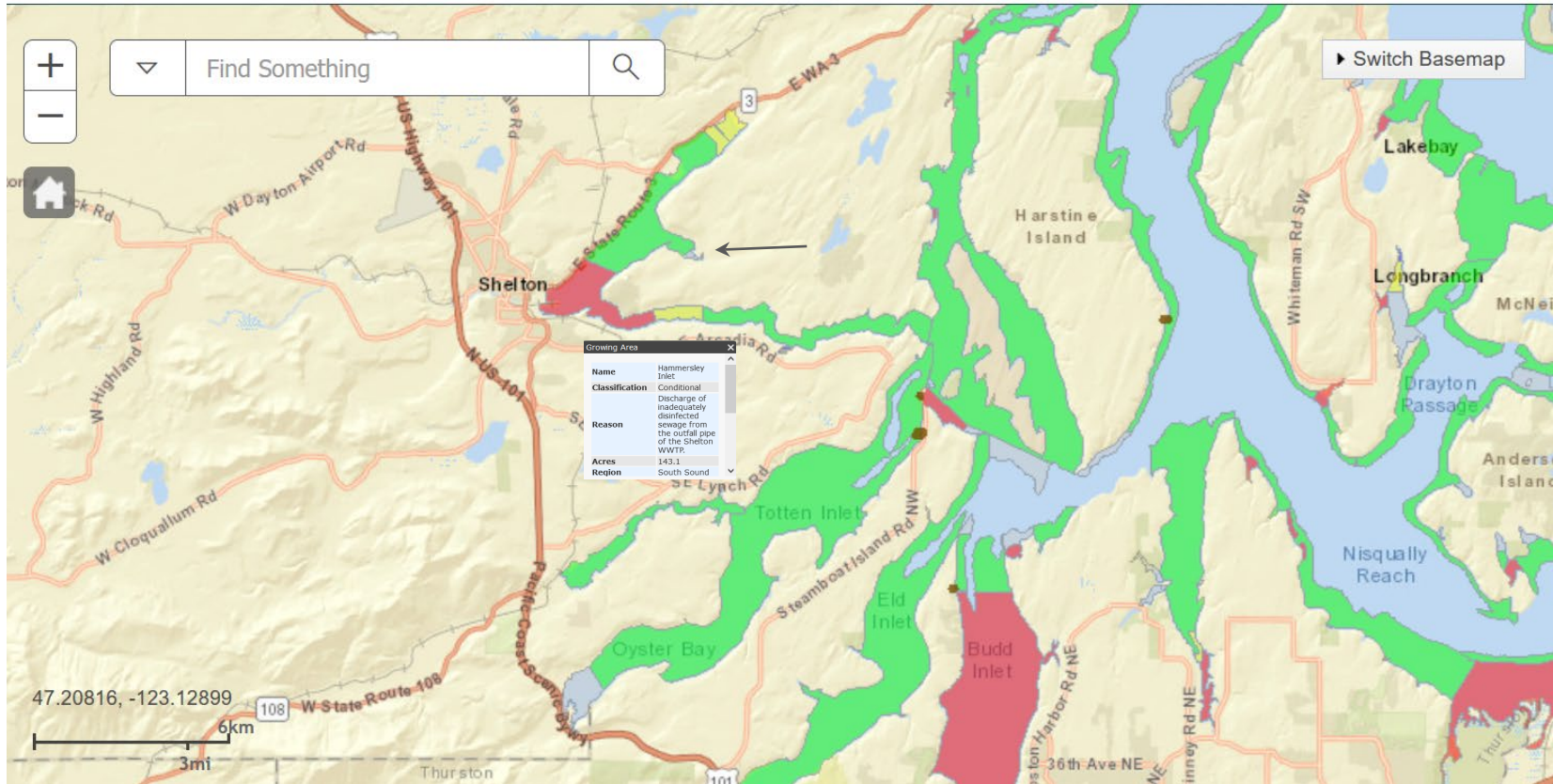


Help

[Current Closures](#)

[County Acres](#)

[Growing Area Acres](#)



# Shelton

## Economic contribution

1960s-1970s a good portion of Oakland and Hammersley Inlet was closed to commercial shellfish farming

City has spent 75 million dollars in updating sewage treatment

DOE regulates effluent that comes out of the sewage treatment plant

UV treatment for noroviruses in effluent

Untreated stormwater

Continuing the good path that you have been on

THANK YOU! From shellfish farmers!





# Questions

Follow us on Instagram @\_pcsga  
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updates!

Website: <https://pcsga.org/>