Responsiveness Summary for Sediment Investigation Report Available

The Department of Ecology’s Toxics Cleanup Program conducted sediment sampling in 2008 and 2009 to investigate the health of the sediments in Oakland Bay. Ecology released the results of the study in the Sediment Investigation Report, which was issued for public review and comment in December 2010. Ecology has reviewed all comments received during the comment period for the report and responded to them in a responsiveness summary.

As part of Governor Gregoire’s efforts to restore the health of the Puget Sound, Ecology’s Toxics Cleanup Program is investigating sediment pollution in seven bays. The goal is to locate and clean up contamination to protect and maintain sustainable use of valuable natural resources.

Ecology chose Oakland Bay because Shelton Harbor has a history of heavy industrial use and previous studies have provided evidence of contamination. In addition, Oakland Bay is one of the most productive shellfish growing areas in the country. Industrial uses of Oakland Bay resulted in sediment contamination in Shelton Harbor and surrounding areas. Chemicals, wood waste and waste water from timber, pulp and wood product manufacturing industries have been discharged into Oakland Bay.

You can read more about the Oakland Bay Sediment Investigation at the project webpage. Ecology will keep the community updated as the sediment investigation and cleanup process continue. Please contact Diana Smith to be added to the mailing list.