

NEWS RELEASE
September 22, 2015

**MASON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584**

**TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE
OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN**

RE: Potlatch State Park Closed to Recreational Water Use

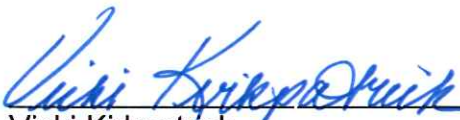
Possible bacterial contamination due to a failing large onsite septic system is causing the closure of the Beach at Potlatch State Park to recreational marine water use.

The areas closed to recreational water use include areas within 240 meters north and south of the point of entry of Potlatch Creek (Minerva Beach Community) into Annas Bay. The area just south of the boat launch off of North Tillicum Beach Lane, down to the area near the restrooms at Potlatch State Park, will be closed to recreational water use until further notice. (Although this closure also includes shellfish harvesting, the shellfish harvesting season at Potlatch State Park ended September 15th.)

Closed to recreational water use means no swimming or wading where water could be swallowed or get in the mouth, nose, or eyes. People should avoid direct skin contact with the water if possible and immediately wash with soap and water if they have exposure to the water.

Mason County Public Health is working closely with the Washington State Department of Health as they monitor the affected areas. Beaches will reopen when water samples show the concentration of bacteria has dropped to safe levels.

For more information, call Mason County Public Health and Human Services at (360) 427-9670 ext. 580. From Belfair, call (360) 275-4467, or from Elma, call (360) 482-5269.



Vicki Kirkpatrick

Director, Mason County Public Health and Human Services