

**From:** [Gary Tripp](#)  
**To:** [Theresa Rice](#)  
**Subject:** Fletcher Bay  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2013 8:58:35 AM

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Fletcher Bay

**Note from Gary Tripp:**

I live just north of Fletcher Bay. A couple of weeks ago I saw a woman getting out of her truck on my street and carrying a clipboard. So I said “Hi, what are you doing?” She said she was with Kitsap County Health Department and she was checking samples on the beach. I said, “Cool, can I walk with you?” She said sure and as we walked I found out she had been placing sample collection bags (charcoal) in the outflow tubes from peoples’ curtain drains.

I asked her what she had found. She told me that one of my neighbors “gray water” was not going through their septic system. She had put dye in their utility sink and it showed up on the beach very shortly thereafter. My neighbor was going to fix their plumbing connections. Good. Problem solved.

She also said she had found some **fecal coliform** bacteria in some samples. So I asked if they tested to determine if it was human or animal fecal coliform. She said no, that costs too much and there are too many false positives. I pointed out that assuming every fecal coliform sample found is human, is to make every test a false positive.

I hope they find all the sources of fecal coliform and correct the problems. These things I do know:

1. While everyone jumps to assumption that the source of most fecal coliform is failing septic systems, when that has been tested in Hood Canal and in the San Juan’s house by house survey, the survey only found a 1 to 2% septic system failure rate.
2. The most common source of fecal coliform found in streams and drain outflows is animal.
3. The BIGGEST threat to shellfish in Fletcher Bay is the uncontrolled silt coming from the two streams that empty into the Bay. Fletcher Bay is a desolate waste land with only mud where there once were oysters.
4. Shoreline property owners are not causing this problem; runoff from roads and upland properties is. And,
5. City or private efforts could create vegetated settling ponds near the outflow of these two streams and could fix or greatly improve the condition and future health of Fletcher Bay.

Let’s work together to fix known, recognized, and solvable problems. You can count me in.

Gary Tripp  
[gary@tripp.net](mailto:gary@tripp.net)  
206-383-2245

# Pollution grows worse in Bainbridge Island's Fletcher Bay

- By [Christopher Dunagan](#)
- Posted April 19, 2013

Read more: <http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2013/apr/19/pollution-grows-worse-in-bainbridge-islands-bay/#ixzz2R41OvqQu>

OLYMPIA — Increasing levels of bacteria in or near Fletcher Bay on Bainbridge Island have placed the area on the state's "threatened list" of shellfish growing areas.

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PO Box 11560  
Bainbridge Is., WA 98110  
Gary Tripp, Director 206-383-2245 gary@tripp.net

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