

# Minter Bay



Cindy Callahan  
Surface Water Program  
Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

# What does the Health Department do?

- We sample the water for different bacteria where people play, and shellfish live.
  - We communicate to the public when there are elevated levels of bacteria.
  - We work with our partners to reduce the health risk.
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## Public Outreach in Key Peninsula

- Added a dedicated day for Surface Water staff to work out of the Key Pen Office.
- Staff has been able to communicate directly on issues such as odors, advisories, and upcoming workshops.
- Advertising through Key Pen News.

**Talk to Our Expert on  
Surface Water**

**Erica Welborn**

**Ask Erica about:**

- Beach monitoring for bacteria.
- Current water quality advisories.
- Toxic algae and water quality education.
- Shellfish information—biotoxins, bacteria and harvesting.

**Visit Erica.**  
Fourth Thursday of the month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Contact Erica.**  
Email [ewelborn@tpchd.org](mailto:ewelborn@tpchd.org) or call (253) 798-4705.

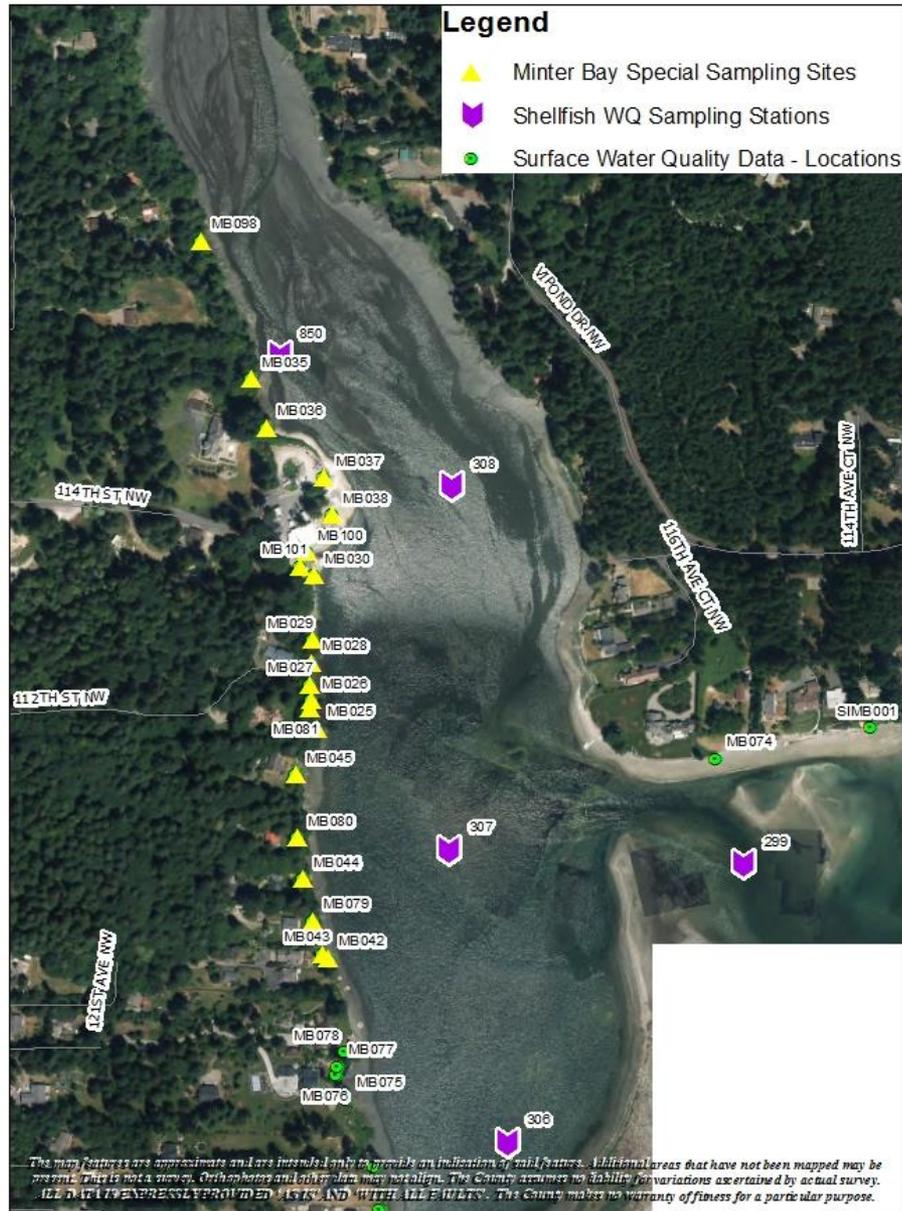
 Tacoma-Pierce County  
**Health Department**  
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

# What work have we done in Minter Bay?

## Sampling:

- Shoreline – Sample locations where freshwater flows into marine water. - May
- Special- extra sampling along shorelines where there is poor water quality. - July
- Upland – upstream locations -same day as Washington State Department of Health (DOH) – September – yesterday.
- Site Investigations – we find elevated bacteria; we do additional sampling to narrow down where the bacteria is coming from.

# Minter Bay Special Sampling Sites



## Future Plans

- Continue sampling efforts in Minter Bay
  - Expand some of our upland sampling.
  - Increase shoreline sampling.
- Coordinate with partners to identify bacteria sources
  - Shellfish Protection District Plan.

# Questions?

Contact Information:

Tacoma Pierce County Health Department Surface Water

<https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-places/surface-water-quality>

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