



## Shellfish Programs

*December 2016*

The Shellfish Programs are responsible for providing sanitary control of molluscan shellfish (oysters, clams, and mussels). We work closely with tribes, local health jurisdictions, volunteer groups, state and federal agencies, and shellfish growers.

- **Biotoxin Monitoring**—We have an extensive marine biotoxin monitoring network to detect paralytic shellfish toxin and domoic acid in shellfish.
- **Growing Area Classification**—Sanitary surveys that include water quality monitoring and pollution source evaluations are conducted in about 100 commercial and 250 recreational growing areas to determine their suitability for shellfish harvest.
- **Illness Investigations**—Washington State has an international reputation for providing safe shellfish; however, illness outbreaks occasionally do occur. We investigate illnesses caused by consuming shellfish originating from Washington waters.
- **Licensing, Certification, and Inspection**—All shellfish harvesters, processing facilities, and wholesale dealers are licensed annually and inspected on a regular basis to determine compliance with applicable sanitary standards. We work to ensure our program meets requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program established under the federal Food and Drug Administration so companies can export product internationally. We also process requests for export certificates by companies sending product to various Asian countries.
- **Recreational Shellfish**—We provide recreational harvesters with timely information about where and when it's safe to harvest shellfish. Local health jurisdictions participate in sample collection for biotoxin monitoring and development and implementation of education and outreach programs.
- **Restoration**—The Restoration Program works with stakeholders to improve water quality in shellfish harvesting areas that have been closed and to prevent the closure of shellfish areas that are threatened with closure.

### **Services**

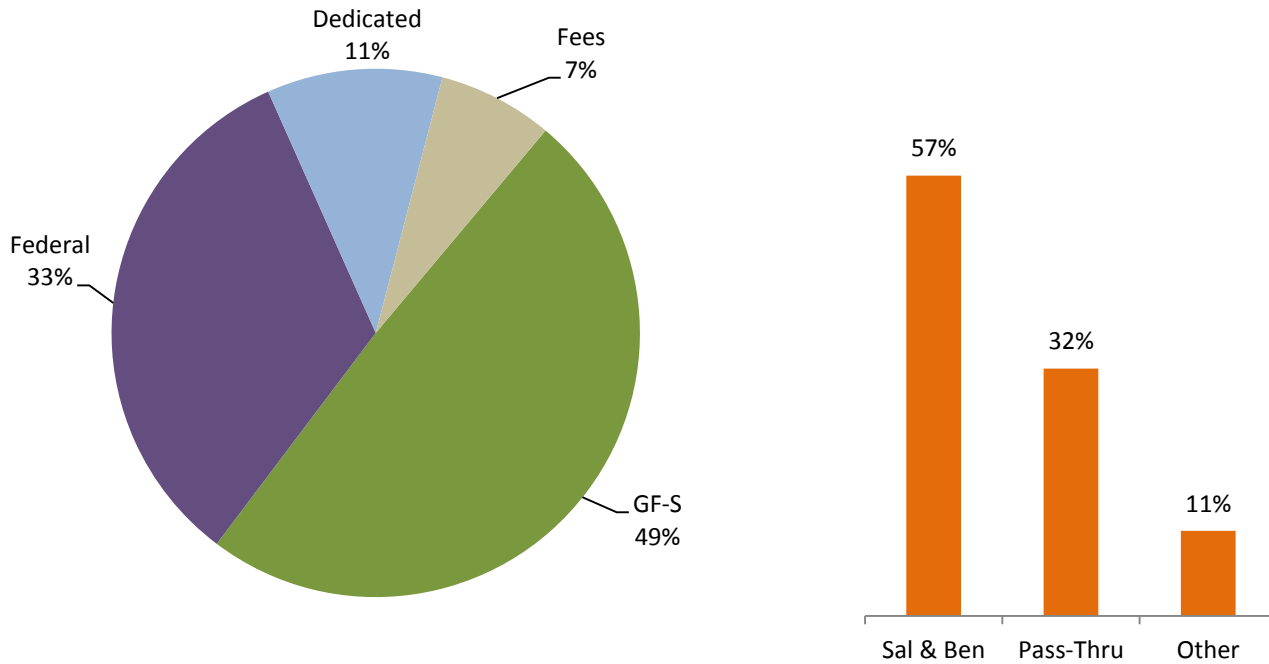
- Sample commercial and recreational shellfish to determine biotoxin levels.
- Conduct sanitary surveys in commercial and recreational growing areas to determine their suitability for shellfish harvest.
- Work closely with stakeholders to investigate and prevent shellfish related illnesses.
- Conduct inspections to ensure shellfish companies meet strict sanitary standards.
- Provide annual licenses to over 300 shellfish operation companies.
- Provide information to recreational harvesters regarding when it is safe to harvest shellfish.
- Work closely with stakeholders to identify and correct pollution sources.

### **Stakeholders**

- Tribes, local health jurisdictions, volunteer groups, state and federal agencies, and shellfish growers.

## Shellfish Program Fiscal Information

2015-17 biennium



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated	Fees	Total	Sal & Ben	Investments	Other
Total	3,705,175	2,489,621	809,295	531,050	7,535,141	4,259,342	2,443,091	832,708

### Recent Funding History

2011-13 biennium: A temporary reduction of \$194,000 in GF-S funds eliminated a shoreline survey position until the end of the biennium.

2011-13 biennium: We received a \$11.5 million six-year federal award for Pathogens Reduction, of which approximately thirty percent is additional funding for shellfish related activities.

2013-15 biennium: We received additional spending authority of \$79,000 for Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) lab testing.