



# Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

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## **PRESS RELEASE** **For Immediate Release**

December 9, 2020 Port Angeles, Washington – the Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Division announces an upgrade to recreational shellfish harvest of beaches that were previously closed to all species due to the presence of biotoxins.

### **In Clallam County:**

**Sequim Bay is closed to butter and varnish clams only.**

**Discovery Bay is closed to butter and varnish clams only.**

**The Strait of Juan de Fuca from Dungeness Spit west to Cape Flattery is open to all species.**

*\*Dungeness Bay east to Discovery Bay remains closed to all species\**

The following beaches in Clallam County are listed with the status in effect:

<b>Beaches</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Strait of Juan de Fuca from Cape Flattery east to Dungeness Spit</b>	<b>No Closure</b>
<b>Sequim Bay</b>	<b>Closed to Butter and Varnish clams only</b>
<b>Discovery Bay</b>	<b>Closed to Butter and Varnish clams only</b>
Strait of Juan de Fuca from Dungeness Bay east to Discovery Bay	All Species Closed
Seasonal Closure of Ocean Beaches	All Species Closed

All species means clams (including geoduck), oysters, mussels and other invertebrates such as the moon snail. All areas are closed for the sport harvest of scallops. These closures do not apply to shrimp. Crab meat is not known to contain biotoxins, but the guts can contain unsafe levels. To be safe, clean crab thoroughly and discard the guts (butter).

It is important to know the difference between butter clams and other species of clams. Butter clams have the ability to retain toxins for a very long time—up to a year or more. Areas may be closed for the sport harvest of butter clams when all other species are safe and open.

For more information about this closure, call the Shellfish Safety Hotline at 1.800.562.5632, or visit the Department of Health's Shellfish Safety Website at [www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety](http://www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety). For additional information call Audrey Coyne with the Washington State Department of Health, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection at 360.236.3354.

These health-related closures are in addition to closures regulated by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Fish and Wildlife closures can be found on their website:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfishing-regulations>. Their Shellfish Rule Hotline is 1.866.880.5431.