



# Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

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## *Press Release*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **BEACHES IN PORT ANGELES HARBOR OPEN TO WATER RECREATION BUT CLOSED TO RECREATIONAL SHELLFISH HARVEST**

The Clallam County Health Officer has lifted the beach closure inside Port Angeles Harbor. Beaches were closed on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> in response to the City of Port Angeles sewer line rupture that released 6–8 million gallons of untreated sewage into the harbor. Laboratory testing results indicate that water quality is now safe for recreational use such as swimming and wading.

Hollywood Beach is open but with a health advisory because of the beach's proximity to combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharge locations. Citizens are cautioned to avoid contact with CSO receiving waters during and following heavy rain, when the water may contain elevated bacteria and chemicals from the sewage and stormwater runoff. The City of Port Angeles has posted warning signs at CSO discharge locations and nearby public access points. For more information about the CSOs, please contact the City of Port Angeles Public Works Department at 360-417-4800 during business hours or visit the CSO web page at <https://www.cityofpa.us/pwCSO.htm>.

**The decision to open the beaches in Port Angeles Harbor to water recreation does not affect the recreational shellfish closure, which is still effective for beaches on the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Dungeness Spit westward to Cape Flattery (including Port Angeles Harbor).** The Washington State Department of Health closed these beaches to the recreational harvest of all shellfish species, because shellfish samples showed elevated levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) toxin. "All shellfish species" means clams (including geoducks), oysters, mussels, and other invertebrates such as the moon snail. This area is also closed to the sport harvest of scallops. **The closure does not apply to shrimp. Crabmeat is not known to contain the PSP toxin, but the guts can contain unsafe levels. To be safe, clean crab thoroughly and discard the guts (butter).**

For more information about the shellfish closure, call the Marine Biotoxin Hotline at 1-800-562-5632, or visit the Department of Health's Marine Biotoxin Website at <http://ww4.doh.wa.gov/gis/biotoxin.htm>. For additional information call the Clallam County Environmental Health Food Safety Program at 360-417-2258.