



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shellfish Closures

Effective immediately, the State of Washington Department of Health has closed the following beaches for the collection of the species of shellfish listed. The closure was triggered after samples collected this week showed elevated levels of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxin.

The following beaches in Clallam County are closed to shellfish collection (for the species noted).

Beaches	Closed to
The Strait of Juan de Fuca from Dungeness Spit westward to Cape Flattery	All Species
Seasonal closure of ocean beaches from Cape Flattery south to the county line	All Species
Discovery Bay, Sequim Bay, and Dungeness Bay	Butter Clams Only

All species means clams (including geoduck), oyster, 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. 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).

It is important to know the difference between butter clams and other species of clams. Butter clams have the ability to retain PSP toxin 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 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.

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: www.wa.gov/wdfw/fish/shelfish/beachreg/. Their emergency regulation hotline is 1-866-880-5431.