



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEACHES REOPEN AFTER SEWAGE SPILL

The Clallam County Health Officer has lifted the health advisory for beaches outside of Port Angeles Harbor that were closed on Tuesday, May 23rd in response to the sewage spill in the City of Port Angeles. Laboratory testing results obtained over the last week indicate that water quality is safe for recreational use at beaches outside the harbor. Closure signs are being removed from these locations.

The health advisory remains in effect for beaches inside Port Angeles Harbor, from the Rayonier property to the tip of Ediz Hook. Recreational sites inside the harbor are closed until further notice because of continued elevated bacteria levels in the water.

Beaches from Crescent Beach to Dungeness Spit had been closed to shellfish harvest and water recreation because of a sewer line rupture that released 6-8 million gallons of untreated sewage into Port Angeles Harbor last week. The Washington State Department of Health reopened established commercial and recreational shellfish harvesting sites in the closure area today, also. For more information go to the Washington Department of Health website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov>.

Volunteers with Clallam County's BEACH (Beach Environmental Assessment, Communication, and Health) Program will continue to monitor bacteria levels weekly at several marine recreational beaches throughout the summer. Clallam County is grateful to Program Coordinator David Freed, dedicated BEACH volunteers, and other community members for their assistance collecting water samples and posting signs during the spill response period.

For more information about this health alert contact Clallam County Environmental Health at 360-417-2328.

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