



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Addressing Beach Closure Concerns

The Clallam County Environmental Health Division and the Washington State Department of Health are keeping the beach closure from Crescent Beach to the tip of the Dungeness Spit in effect until at least June 1st. The purpose of the closure is to protect public health. Closure signs at marine access points notify water recreational users that the marine waters are potentially contaminated as a result of the sewage spill earlier this week in Port Angeles harbor. People are advised to avoid harvesting shellfish, swimming, or wading in the water in the closure area, or wherever signs are posted. (Note that this closed area includes Salt Creek County Park at Camp Hayden.)

Fishing for halibut and other fin fish is not affected. However boaters and fishermen should also use precautions to avoid exposure to potentially contaminated marine water, especially in the Port Angeles harbor area.

We recommend that boaters avoid water-on-skin contact as much as possible and have a method to wash their hands frequently," said Andy Brastad, Clallam County Environmental Health Director. Soap and water or antibacterial hand sanitizer should be used. "We also recommend a clothing change when boaters return ashore if clothing becomes soaked with seawater and that potentially contaminated clothes be properly laundered," he said. Equipment, waders or boots, and boating gear that has come in contact with marine water should be thoroughly rinsed and air-dried.

The marine shoreline waters will be tested for the next several weeks to determine when water quality is at safe levels for recreational use.

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