



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

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PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

July 31, 2020 Port Angeles, Washington – the Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Division announces a downgrade to recreational shellfish harvest of all shellfish in the Strait of Juan de Fuca due to the presence of biotoxins.

In Clallam County, the Strait of Juan de Fuca is closed to ALL species of shellfish.

The following beaches in Clallam County are listed with the closure in effect.

Beaches	Status
Strait of Juan de Fuca	All Species Closed
Sequim Bay	Closed to Butter and Varnish clams only
Discovery Bay	Closed to ALL SPECIES of shellfish
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. For additional information call Audrey Coyne with the Washington State Department of Health, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection at 360.236.3354. A current list of beach closures in Clallam County is located at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/odw/si/BiotoxinBulletin.aspx>

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.