



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

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PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

December 4, 2023 Port Angeles, Washington – the Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Division announces updated shellfish harvest information for beaches in Clallam County.

Effective immediately, the Washington State Department of Health updated harvest closures of the following beaches for the recreational harvest of the species of shellfish listed:

In Clallam County, the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Cape Flattery to the Jefferson County line is CLOSED for recreational harvest of BUTTER AND VARNISH CLAMS ONLY.

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

Date	Beaches	Status
12/4/2023	Strait of Juan de Fuca from Cape Flattery to the Jefferson County line	Closed to Butter and Varnish clams only
8/31/2023	Discovery Bay	Closed to all species
8/29/2023	Sequim Bay	Closed to all species
Ongoing	Seasonal closure of ocean beaches	Closed to all species

Closed to 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. Crabmeat 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 Marine Biotoxin Hotline at 1.800.562.5632, or visit the Department of Health's Marine Biotoxin Website at www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety.htm. For additional information call Audrey Coyne with the Washington State Department of Health, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection at 360.236.3354.

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: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/beaches/beach_names.php.

Their emergency regulation hotline is 1.866.880.5431.