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News Release

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Recreational Shellfish Beaches Reopened

PSP Advisory Lifted for Dyes Inlet and Liberty Bay Shellfish Beaches

BREMERTON – Recent paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) monitoring results show that levels of PSP have dropped below the Washington State Department of Health’s closure threshold in Dyes Inlet and Liberty Bay. As a result, the Health District has removed its PSP advisory for these two areas.

PSP closures are still in place for Miller Bay and Port Madison Bay for all species of clams, oysters and mussels. The remaining areas along the eastern side of Kitsap County are also still under an existing PSP closure for Butter Clams only, including all public and private beaches, from Point No Point south to Blake Island, except for Dyes Inlet, Sinclair Inlet, Liberty Bay, Rich Passage, Yukon Harbor, and from Point Southworth to the south county line, which are open to all species. Warning signs have been posted at public beaches alerting people not to collect shellfish from these areas.

Marine biotoxins are not destroyed by cooking or freezing and can be life-threatening. People can become ill from eating shellfish contaminated with the naturally occurring marine algae that contains toxins that are harmful to humans. Symptoms of PSP can appear within minutes or hours and usually begin with tingling lips and tongue, moving to the hands and feet, followed by difficulty breathing and potentially death. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should contact a health care provider. For extreme reactions, call 911.

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In most cases, the algae that contain the toxins cannot be seen and must be detected using laboratory testing. The Health District will continue to monitor shellfish at Kitsap County beaches, and notify the public if the levels of PSP toxin become unsafe in other areas.

For current shellfish closures within Kitsap County, call our hotline number: 1-800-2BE-WELL or visit us online at www.kitsapcountyhealth.com. For closures in other areas of Washington, call the Washington State Department of Health's Red Tide Hotline at 1-800-562-5632, or visit them online at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm.

This notice supersedes previous PSP notices.

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