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Drayton Harbor Closed to Shellfish Harvest; Birch Bay & Portage Bay Reopen

BELLINGHAM, WA — Unsafe levels of diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP) biotoxin have been detected in molluscan shellfish in Drayton Harbor. As a result, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has closed recreational shellfish in Drayton Harbor.

Biotoxin levels have dropped in Birch Bay and Portage Bay, and shellfish harvest has been reopened in these areas.

Shellfish harvest remains closed for beaches from Bellingham Bay south to the Skagit County border including Chuckanut Bay and all of Larrabee State Park. Point Roberts remain closed as well.

Biotoxin levels can change rapidly, so shellfish harvesters are advised to always check for current shellfish closures on the Washington Shellfish Safety Map (doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety) or to call the DOH Biotoxin Hotline at 1-800-562-5632 before harvesting shellfish anywhere in Washington State.

Shellfish sold in restaurants and markets have been tested before distribution and are safe to eat.

More information about safely harvesting shellfish is available from the Washington State Department of Health at www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Shellfish/RecreationalShellfish.

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