



About Fisheries Closure

[Fish and Game Code, Section 5654](#) requires that “the director [of CDFW], within 24 hours of notification of a spill or discharge, as those terms are defined in [Section 8670.3 of the Government Code](#) , where any fishing, including all commercial, recreational, and nonlicensed subsistence fishing, may take place, or where aquaculture operations are taking place, shall close to the take of all fish and shellfish all waters in the vicinity of the spill or discharge or where the spilled or discharged material has spread, or is likely to spread.” Fisheries in the vicinity of a spill may remain open only if the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ([OEHHA](#)) determines that a public health threat does not exist or is unlikely to exist due to the spill and recommends that the fisheries should not be closed.



When a closure is in place for more than 48 hours, CDFW must conduct expedited sampling and laboratory analysis to assess the levels of potential contaminants in the seafood samples. Lab results are analyzed by OEHHA in order to determine whether the fish and shellfish are safe for human consumption before reopening fisheries.

[Reopening Process](#)

CDFW works closely with OEHHA during oil spills and throughout fisheries closures to determine the appropriate boundaries, sampling plans, and reopening dates. To learn more, view [OEHHA's Fact Sheet](#) on oil spills and seafood.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Contact Information

Annie Nelson

Email: Annie.Nelson@wildlife.ca.gov

Phone: (916) 202-1656