



Gavin Newsom, Governor  
Yana Garcia, Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Lauren Zeise, Ph.D., Director

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Charlton H. Bonham, Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**FROM:** Lauren Zeise, Ph.D. Lauren Zeise  
Director Lauren Zeise (Apr 21, 2023 15:40 PDT)

**DATE:** April 21, 2023

**SUBJECT:** RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE THE RECREATIONAL RAZOR CLAM FISHERY IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY

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The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), has determined that consumption of razor clams taken from Humboldt County poses a significant threat for domoic acid exposure. OEHHA, in consultation with CDPH, therefore recommends that the recreational razor clam fishery be closed in Humboldt County. This recommendation is based on a finding of elevated levels of domoic acid in the meat of razor clams that were collected from this area and analyzed by CDPH laboratories, as shown in the table below. The recreational razor clam fishery closure for Del Norte County remains in effect.

Domoic acid poisoning in humans may occur within minutes to hours after consumption of affected seafood and can result in signs and symptoms ranging from vomiting and diarrhea to permanent loss of short-term memory (amnesic shellfish poisoning), coma, or death.

Current federal action levels for domoic acid are  $\geq 20$  parts per million (ppm) for all fish, with the exception of  $>30$  ppm in the viscera of Dungeness crabs. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CDPH, and OEHHA will collect, monitor and analyze razor clams to determine when the recreational razor clam fishery in Humboldt County can be re-opened safely.

Charlton H. Bonham, Director

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If you have questions, please contact me at [Lauren.Zeise@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:Lauren.Zeise@oehha.ca.gov) or Dr. Susan Klasing at [Susan.Klasing@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:Susan.Klasing@oehha.ca.gov).

### Razor Clam Sampling Results

COUNTY	LOCATION	SAMPLE COLLECTION DATE	TISSUE TYPE	DOMOIC ACID (ppm)***
Humboldt	Clam Beach	04/09/23	Meat*	33
			Meat**	45

\* Composite sample of two individual clams.

\*\* Composite sample of three individual clams.

\*\*\* The action level for razor clam meat is  $\geq 20$  ppm.

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