



Gavin Newsom, Governor
Yana Garcia, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Kristina Thayer, Ph.D., Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Meghan Hertel, Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: Kristina Thayer, Ph.D. *Kristina Thayer*
Director

DATE: July 31, 2026

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE THE RECREATIONAL RAZOR CLAM FISHERY IN DEL NORTE COUNTY

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 from Del Norte County poses a significant threat for domoic acid exposure. OEHHA and CDPH therefore recommend that the recreational razor clam fishery be closed in Del Norte County. This recommendation is based on levels of domoic acid above the federal action level in the meat of razor clams collected from this area and analyzed by CDPH laboratories. A table presenting the results of domoic acid analysis in samples from the impacted area is shown below. The recreational razor clam fishery [closure remains in place for Humboldt County](#) based on domoic acid levels.

[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 ≥ 20 parts per million (ppm) for all fish and shellfish, except for > 30 ppm in the viscera of Dungeness crab.

OEHHA strongly recommends that non-commercial shellfish harvesters follow all [CDPH marine biotoxin quarantines and health advisories](#), including those for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CDPH, and OEHHA will continue to collect, monitor, and analyze razor clams and other bivalves to determine when the recreational razor clam fishery in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties can be re-opened safely. If you have questions, please contact me at Kris.Thayer@oehha.ca.gov or Dr. Wes Smith at Wesley.Smith@oehha.ca.gov.

Razor Clam Sampling Results

Kristina Thayer

COUNTY	LOCATION	SAMPLE COLLECTION DATES	TISSUE TYPE	DOMOIC ACID (ppm) ^a
DEL NORTE	Crescent Beach	7/15/26	meat	16*
				27**
				26**

^a The action level is ≥ 20 ppm.

*Composite sample of 4 individual clams.

**Composite sample of 3 individual clams.

cc: June Weintraub, Sc.D.
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Melissa Miller-Henson
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