

Staff Summary for October 13-16, 2026

24C. Department Marine Region**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Receive updates on items of note since the previous Commission meeting.

- I. Update on actions taken by the Department director to reopen the razor clam fishery after a one-month closure due to a public health hazard from domoic acid.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

Today, the Department's Marine Region is expected to provide verbal updates and highlight items of note since last Commission meeting, including recent action taken by the Department director to reopen the razor clam fishery in Del Norte County due to a public health hazard from domoic acid, pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 5523. A Department Marine Region news release (Exhibit 1) includes a link to a recommendation from state health agencies that domoic acid no longer poses a significant threat to human health if consumed.

As noted at the August Commission meeting, the razor clam fishery was closed in Del Norte County on July 31, while the recreational clam fishery in Humboldt County remains closed due to elevated levels of domoic acid. This closure, in place since May 2024, will continue until state health agencies determine that razor clams no longer pose a health risk and as the Department and state health agencies continue monitoring efforts to guide future reopening decisions.

The news release provides additional information and resources for clammers, and current regulations are available in the Ocean Sport Fishing Regulation Guide; updated health advisories and closure information can be accessed through the Department and California Department of Public Health hotlines and websites.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [Department news release, "Del Norte County Razor Clam Fishery Opens After One-Month Closure Due to Public Health Hazard," dated August 31, 2026](#)

Motion (N/A)



CDFW NEWS

Del Norte County Razor Clam Fishery Opens After One-Month Closure Due to Public Health Hazard

August 31, 2026



California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Director Meghan Hertel [has opened the recreational razor clam fishery in Del Norte County \(PDF\)\(external link\)](#) following a [recommendation from state health agencies \(PDF\)\(external link\)](#) that domoic acid no longer poses a significant threat to human health if consumed.

The razor clam fishery was [closed on July 31 in Del Norte County](#) due to elevated levels of domoic acid. Clams sampled in July and August 2026 from Crescent Beach, Del Norte County, all had domoic acid concentrations lower than the federal action level, allowing the fishery to reopen.

The recreational razor clam fishery in Humboldt County remains closed due to elevated levels of domoic acid. The closure, which [began in May 2024](#), remains in effect until state health agencies determine razor clams no longer pose a health risk.

CDFW will continue to work with the California Department of Public Health and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment as they monitor ocean indicators for domoic acid presence and continue to test razor clams from Northern California. This will determine when the recreational razor clam fishery can be reopened safely in Humboldt County while ensuring razor clams are safe to harvest in Del Norte County.

CDFW reminds clammers that the daily bag limit for razor clams is 20 and the first 20 clams dug must be retained regardless of size or condition. The fishery is open south of Battery Point, Crescent City in Del Norte County. Each person is required to keep a separate container for their clams and is not allowed to commingle their take with another person when digging and transporting clams to shore.

Recreational clam fishery regulations can be found in the [Ocean Sport Fishing Regulation Guide \(PDF\)\(external link\)](#) refer to Section 29.20 for general clam regulations and Section 29.45 for specific razor clam regulations.

Health advisory information will be updated on CDFW's [fishery information and health advisories\(external link\)](#) page.

To get the latest information on current fishing season closures related to domoic acid, please call CDFW's Domoic Acid Fishery Closure Information Line at (831) 649-2883.

For the latest consumption warnings, please call California Department of Public Health's Biotxin Information Line at (510) 412-4643 or toll-free at (800) 553-4133.

###

Media Contacts:

[Christy Juhasz](#), CDFW Marine Region, (707) 292-2480

[Krysten Kellum](#), CDFW Communications, (916) 825-7120