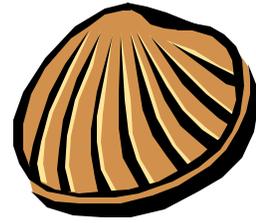




**2001 Recreational Shellfish  
Year End Report  
January 30, 2001**



Clallam County Environmental Health Division (CCEHD) received \$2,778 in 2001 from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) under the Consolidated Contract for the administration of the Recreational Shellfish Program. The County focused on two projects this year; marine biotoxin monitoring and notification, and public education.

**Marine Biotoxin Monitoring and Notification**

The Sequim Baywatcher Volunteers have done a wonderful job with collecting mussel samples for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning monitoring. This monitoring allows us to identify increased PSP levels and make public notifications. This occurs through press releases and beach postings. The County and State DOH rely heavily on these volunteers. After many dedicated years as the Sequim Baywatcher volunteer coordinator, Carrie Kalina left to travel in April 2001. At that time, CCEHD assumed the responsibility of coordinating the sampling for the Baywatchers. CCEHD also sampled two times at Sequim Bay.

Sequim Bay was closed to recreational shellfish harvesting from September 2000 until May 2001, at which time DOH re-opened the Bay for recreational shellfish harvesting. On August 14, 2001, Sequim Bay was once again closed due to elevated levels of PSP. It remained closed throughout the end of the year. CCEHD issued the appropriate press release notifying the public of the closure and the possible health affects associated with eating shellfish contaminated with high levels of PSP.

CCEHD continued bi-weekly mussel sample collection at Ediz Hook. The County collected 17 of the required 24 samples throughout the year. In September 2001, the mussel cage at Ediz Hook was removed due to construction at the Port Angeles Pilot Station. In November 2001, a temporary cage was placed at the public boat launch, but after two sampling events, the cage was broken.

**Public Education**

During times of beach closure due to high levels of PSP, the County notifies the public by beach postings and media press releases. We issued one notification of beach closures due to PSP this year. Throughout the year, this office receives many phone calls and other inquiries made by the public as to the status of recreational shellfishing opportunities in the County.

In 2000, two displays were constructed regarding safe recreational shellfish harvesting. One display focuses on safe shellfish harvesting while the other display focuses on the connections between shellfish and watersheds. A third display was constructed in 2001 about safe and proper shellfish harvesting techniques. The displays were used at the CCEHD booth at the Clallam County Fair. CCEHD estimates over 1000 people came through the fair booth. A second set of the three displays were constructed and given to the City of Port Angeles Fiero Marine Lab in Spring 2001.

If you have further questions pertaining to the recreational shellfish program, please call Jennifer Barnhill at 417-2347.

