



News Release

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Contacts: [Donn Moyer](#), Communications Office

360-236-4076

Penn Cove shellfish areas now reopened to harvest except Madrona Beach

OLYMPIA — The Department of Health has reopened most commercial and recreational shellfish beds in Penn Cove that remained closed after a fuel spill in mid-May. All shellfish harvest remains closed at Madrona Beach after slight contamination was detected during the latest odor and taste tests.

The Department of Health closed the area to harvest in mid-May after the fishing boat *Deep Sea* burned and sank, causing a fuel spill. Some areas in Penn Cove were reopened June 5. This week, state health officials worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on another round of sensory (smell and taste) testing in the closed areas. Other than shellfish from Madrona Beach, the results show mussels are not contaminated and are safe to eat.

The state health department is responsible for the safety of commercial shellfish harvested in Washington. The agency works with the shellfish industry, the federal Food and Drug Administration, and Washington tribes. It also works with other federal, state, and local partners to protect public health by closing shellfish harvest areas when pollution threatens the area.

Find our [Recreational Shellfish program on Facebook](#). The [Department of Health website](#) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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