

Oregon coastal beaches reopen to mussel harvesting

July 8, 2008... The Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announce the reopening of recreational mussel harvesting from the mouth of the Columbia River to Gold Beach. Shellfish samples taken from the closed area last week indicate levels of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins have dropped below the alert level. The area has been closed to recreational harvesting of mussels since June 12. Coastal scallops, also affected by the closure, are now also safe for harvest and consumption.

With the closure lifted, the entire Oregon coast is now open to all recreational shellfish harvesting.

ODA will continue to routinely test for shellfish toxins.

For more information, call ODA's shellfish safety information hotline at (800) 448-2474, the Food Safety Division at (503) 986-4720 or visit the ODA shellfish closures web page at http://oregon.gov/ODA/FSD/shellfish_status.shtml.

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