



News Release

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Department of Health opens shellfish-harvest area near Kingston

Pollution reductions lead to safer growing conditions

OLYMPIA — The Department of Health has opened 162 acres of commercial shellfish beds where harvesting was previously prohibited near the Kitsap County city of Kingston.

The agency determined the area safe for harvesting after evaluating pollution sources and water-quality testing.

The newly approved shellfish beds include an offshore geoduck harvest area and stretches of shoreline both north and south of Kingston.

“We’re always happy when we’re able to open areas to shellfish harvesting,” said Maryanne Guichard, assistant secretary for the Department of Health. “It’s an indication that the water conditions in the area are improving, and that’s welcome news.”

The approval to open these shellfish beds was made possible after a wastewater treatment plant was built and its outfall was extended nearly a mile off the shoreline. Follow up water testing and a review of pollution sources by the agency verified that the area could be safely opened for shellfish harvesting.

The Kingston treatment plant, owned and operated by Kitsap County, has received outstanding performance awards from the Department of Ecology for the last four years.

The inner part of Appletree Cove will remain closed to shellfish harvest due to the potential of pollution from the developed area in and around Kingston and the marina.

The goal of the Department of Health [Office of Shellfish and Water Protection](#) is to ensure that shellfish harvested in the waters of our state are safe to eat. Restoring and reopening shellfish beds is one of three strategic initiatives in the [Puget Sound Action Agenda](#), which includes

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preventing pollution from urban storm water runoff and protecting and restoring damaged shorelines and salmon habitat.

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