



News Release

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Beachgoers should avoid razor clam dig near grounded vessel, Apr 25-26

OLYMPIA –Washington State Department of Health advises beachgoers to avoid digging for razor clams at the southern end of Copalis Beach Apr 25-26 due to potential water pollution.

The area that could be impacted, by a potential fuel or oil spill, is along the 3-mile section of coast from Taurus Road to the end of Copalis Beach.

On Apr 15, a fishing boat grounded just north of the north jetty at the entrance to Grays Harbor. The boat contains more than 2,500 gallons of diesel fuel and oil.

“We continue to evaluate the potential impact to the razor clams in the area,” said Scott Berbells, manager of the Shellfish Growing Area Section. “We encourage beachgoers to consider digging for clams at a different location.”

This section of Copalis Beach is rarely used for clam digging. Beachgoers should always avoid digging for clams in areas where oil can be seen or smelled.

If oil makes contact with your skin, it should be washed off immediately with soap and water.

If anyone observes oil in the water or on the beach report it to the [Department of Ecology](#) or call 800-424-8802 or 800-258-5990.

The department is responsible for the safety of all harvested shellfish in the state. Information on shellfish harvesting areas is available on the department’s [shellfish program website](#).

The department’s [website](#) is your source for a *healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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