

STAFF SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 8-9, 2017

33. RAZOR CLAM**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

Discuss recent action by DFW's director to continue closure of the recreational razor clam fishery in Humboldt and Del Norte counties due to elevated levels of domoic acid.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- FGC emergency closure of razor clam fishery Apr 25, 2016; Teleconference
- 90-day extension of FGC emergency closure Oct 19, 2016; Eureka
- Closure under DFW director's authority Jan 30, 2017
- **Today's update on the status of closure Feb 8-9, 2017; Rohnert Park**

Background

In Apr 2016 California's health agencies (California Department of Public Health and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment) determined that razor clams in Humboldt and Del Norte counties had unhealthy levels of domoic acid and recommended the recreational fishery closure (there is no commercial fishery). FGC took action to close the fishery under emergency rules from Apr to Oct 2016. Based on persistently elevated domoic acid levels, the closure was continued through Jan 26, 2017. More recently, the health agencies confirmed that elevated domoic acid levels are ongoing in both Humboldt and Del Norte counties (Exhibit 1).

Pursuant to new Fish and Game Code Section 5523(a), DFW's director now has authority to order the closure of any State waters or restrict the take of any fish species if state health agencies determine that the fish is likely to pose a human health risk from high levels of toxins. If the director takes such measures, he is required to notify FGC and request that FGC schedule a public discussion of the closure at its next scheduled full FGC meeting. Any actions taken pursuant to Section 5523 are exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

On Jan 30, 2017 DFW's director issued a declaration (Exhibit 2) to uphold the ban on the recreational take of razor clams based on the continued elevated levels of domoic acid in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Pursuant to Section 5523(b), the closure will continue until the director is notified by the public health agencies that a health risk no longer exists.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [California Department of Public Health email regarding recent razor clam samples for domoic acid levels, received Dec 16, 2016](#)
2. [DFW Declaration of Fisheries Closure Due to a Public Health Threat Caused by Elevated Levels of Domoic Acid in Razor Clams, received Jan 30, 2017](#)

Motion/Direction (N/A)

Pope, Elizabeth@Wildlife

From: Ray, James@Wildlife
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Pope, Elizabeth@Wildlife
Subject: Fw: Razor Clam Update

FYI

From: Christen, Joe (CDPH-DDWEM-EMB) <Joe.Christen@cdph.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2016 4:47:46 PM
To: Jacque Smith ; Jaytuk Steinruck; Ken Graves Rosa Laucci; Tom Weseloh
(Tom.weseloh@sen.ca.gov)
Cc: Ramey, Kirsten@Wildlife; Martel, Melissa (HUMBOLDT COUNTY); McNally, Brian (Del Norte); Ray, James@Wildlife; Trevena, Eric (CDPH-EMB); Program REDTIDE
Subject: Razor Clam Update

Greetings –

James collected 12 razor clams from Clam Beach on December 13 which we separated into meat (foot and siphon) and viscera. Domoic acid concentrations ranged from 18 to 220 ppm in the meat samples with an average of 74 ppm. The viscera from these clams were pooled and had a concentration of 45 ppm. Recent mussel samples from Humboldt County were non detect.

Results for razor clams from Del Norte County will be available next week.

MDL	Species	Result	Coll_Date	Collector	Agency	Site
M16D00167	razor clam meat	78	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00168	razor clam meat	44	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00169	razor clam meat	82	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00170	razor clam meat	92	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00171	razor clam meat	39	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00172	razor clam meat	23	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00173	razor clam meat	32	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00174	razor clam meat	99	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00175	razor clam meat	99	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00176	razor clam meat	18	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00177	razor clam meat	220	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16D00178	razor clam meat	57	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville

M16D00179	razor clams viscera	45	12/13/2016	Ray	CDFW	Clam Beach Mckinleyville
M16P00884	mussels	< 2.5	12/9/2016	Colleen	HBEHD	Trinidad State Beach
M16P00889	mussels	< 2.5	12/13/2016	Pong	CSC	HB USCG Station

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DECLARATION OF FISHERIES CLOSURE
DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT
CAUSED BY ELEVATED LEVELS OF DOMOIC ACID IN RAZOR CLAMS
Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I find and declare that

I.

On April 20, 2016, the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in consultation with the Director of the California Department of Public Health determined that razor clams in Humboldt and Del Norte counties contain unhealthy domoic acid levels and recommended fishery closure.

II.

On April 25, the Fish and Game Commission adopted an emergency closure of the razor clam fishery as recommended. The emergency closure effective dates were from April 26, 2016 to October 24, 2016. The emergency closure was extended for 90 days and will expire on January 26, 2017.

III.

Opportunistic sampling of razor clams from the affected counties in December shows that domoic acid levels remain at unhealthy levels.

IV.

THEREFORE, under the authority granted by FG Code Section 5523, I am continuing the razor clam closure until I am notified by the public health agency directors named above, that a health hazard with regard to razor clams no longer exists.

2017 JUN 29 11:01

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Charlton H. Bonham, Director

Jan. 30, 2017 / 9:50 a.m.

Date/Time