

# Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** John McCamman  
Acting Director  
Department of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth Street  
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**FROM:** Joan E. Denton, Ph.D. *Joan E. Denton, Ph.D.*  
Director

**DATE:** November 25, 2009

**SUBJECT:** SAN FRANCISCO BAY OIL SPILL: OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS – PARTIAL  
REOPENING

As a result of the Dubai Star oil spill, the Alameda County shoreline along the San Francisco Bay from Alameda Point (at the northwest corner of Alameda Naval Air Station) to the southern boundary of the Oakland airport has been closed to fishing and shellfish harvesting since October 30, 2009.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) finds that there is no longer a potential health hazard associated with shoreline fishing as a result of this spill.

Based on tests of mussels collected within the closure boundaries between October 31 and November 13, 2009, OEHHA finds that consumption of mussels collected from most areas within the closure zone similarly pose no ongoing significant oil-related health risks. However, there are elevated levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in mussels from Crown Beach and the neighboring Ballena Bay area in Alameda that require continued monitoring. The test results suggest that mussels from the Ballena Bay area have been exposed to another contamination source unrelated to the spill.

As a result, OEHHA recommends that the closure zone be reopened for fishing and shellfish harvesting with the exception of Crown Beach, which should remain closed to mussel and other shellfish harvesting pending the results of further testing. OEHHA will

California Environmental Protection Agency

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption.*

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also be issuing a health advisory for mussels collected from the bayside shoreline on the west and south sides of Ballena Boulevard. OEHHA recommends that consumers do not eat mussels taken from this area.

OEHHA reminds the public to continue to follow the existing San Francisco Bay and Delta region fish consumption advisory that has been in place for many years (<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/fish/general/sfbaydelta.html>).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 322-6325.