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DEC releases test results on paralytic shellfish poisoning

(Juneau, Alaska). The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation today released test results on Dungeness crabs sampled for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP).

Following a reported case of PSP in Haines, Alaska, DEC conducted tests on crabs in that area to determine levels of paralytic shellfish poison toxin. The tested crabs were collected following the reported illness.

Test results show low levels of PSP in the viscera, or guts, of the sampled crabs. The levels are far below DEC legal limits and are not a health concern. No PSP was found in the crab meat.

DEC will continue to test crabs from other parts of Southeast Alaska to verify these results.

The agency has a rigorous commercial seafood monitoring program.

DEC recommends generally that crab guts be removed and discarded and not eaten.

The agency also warns all Alaskans that clams, mussels and cockles can contain lethal levels of PSP toxins and other contaminants. They should never be harvested from beaches that have not been tested.

The DEC warning does not apply to commercially grown and harvested shellfish available in grocery stores and restaurants. They are tested regularly before going to the market.