



FACT SHEET FOR SCAMMON BAY: ASKINUK TANK FARM GASOLINE RELEASE SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES

SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED ABOUT PETROLEUM IN SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES?

Use the following guidelines, traditional knowledge, and common sense to avoid animals that are oiled or ones that don't metabolize oil quickly. (If animals don't metabolize oil quickly, it stays in their bodies for a long time).

- As the elders teach, don't collect or eat subsistence food animals that behave oddly or have unusual lesions. **Report any organism that smells or looks like it has been oiled.**
- Shellfish, like mussels, don't metabolize oil very quickly, so it stays in their bodies a long time. They may also be re-exposed from oil trapped in sediments. Avoid harvesting these animals from oiled beaches and within one mile upstream or three miles downstream of the spill until the amount of spilled product and distance of spreading has been determined.
- The rate that intertidal organisms like chitons, limpets, and octopus metabolize oil varies widely. They are also vulnerable to being re-exposed to trapped oil in sediments. Avoid harvesting these animals from oiled beaches and within one mile upstream or three miles downstream of the release site until the amount of spilled product and distance of spreading has been determined.
- Finfish, like salmon, can retain harmful compounds long after visible signs of oil are gone. Avoid harvesting fish within one mile upstream or three miles downstream of the release site until the amount of spilled product and distance of spreading has been determined.
- Birds and mammals can retain harmful compounds long after visible signs of oil are gone. Avoid harvesting any bird or mammal that shows signs of being oiled, no matter where it is located, and avoid harvesting small or non-migratory animals within a mile of the spill site or within a mile of the river starting one mile upstream and continuing three miles downstream of the spill site until the amount of spilled product and distance of spreading has been determined. Birds and large, migratory mammals should not be harvested within a three mile radius of the spill site until the amount of spilled product and distance of spreading has been determined. Avoid eating organ, such as the liver and kidneys if further concerned about an animal.
- Plants can be impacted by a petroleum spills. Avoid consuming any plant material that has come from areas that may have been affected. Indicators such as a non-vegetated area or "dead zone", visible sheen, and fuel smell are all signs that the area might be contaminated and eating or consuming plants should be avoided. Plants may also exhibit signs of contamination, such as brown or dead leaves, wilting, or have leaves with unusual dark spots or edges.
- Contact with gasoline could cause skin irritation and inflammation. If possible, avoid direct contact with spill materials. If you have no choice but to handle objects or wildlife that have been in contact with gasoline, make sure you prevent contact with your skin. If you get gasoline on your skin, wash with soap and water, and launder clothing as you normally would.

If you have health questions about use of subsistence resources please contact the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health at **269-8000**.