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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2023

### MUSSEL QUARANTINE LIFTED

**Shellfish Information Hotline: (800)553-4133**

VENTURA, California - The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that the annual quarantine on mussels gathered by sport harvesters from California's coastal waters will end on midnight on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, for the California coast, including Ventura County. Shellfish advisories remain in place for San Mateo and San Luis Obispo counties.

The annual mussel quarantine, which typically runs May 1 through October 31, is intended to protect the public from shellfish poisoning caused by marine biotoxins. Concentrated levels of domoic acid and paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) can develop in mussels and other bivalve shellfish when they feed on certain naturally occurring marine plankton.

The warning against eating sport-harvested bivalve shellfish (including mussels, clams, and scallops) from San Mateo and San Luis Obispo counties remain in effect, due to elevated levels of PSP toxins detected in mussels from these counties and/or lack of data meeting the criteria to lift the advisories. The naturally occurring PSP toxins can cause illness or death in humans. Cooking does not destroy the toxin.

Domoic acid and paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins remain at low or undetectable levels in mussel samples along all other portions of the California coast.

Updated information about shellfish poisoning is available by calling the Shellfish Information Line at (800) 553-4133.

More information can be found on the [Mussel Quarantine Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) on the CDPH website: [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

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