



Public Service Announcement

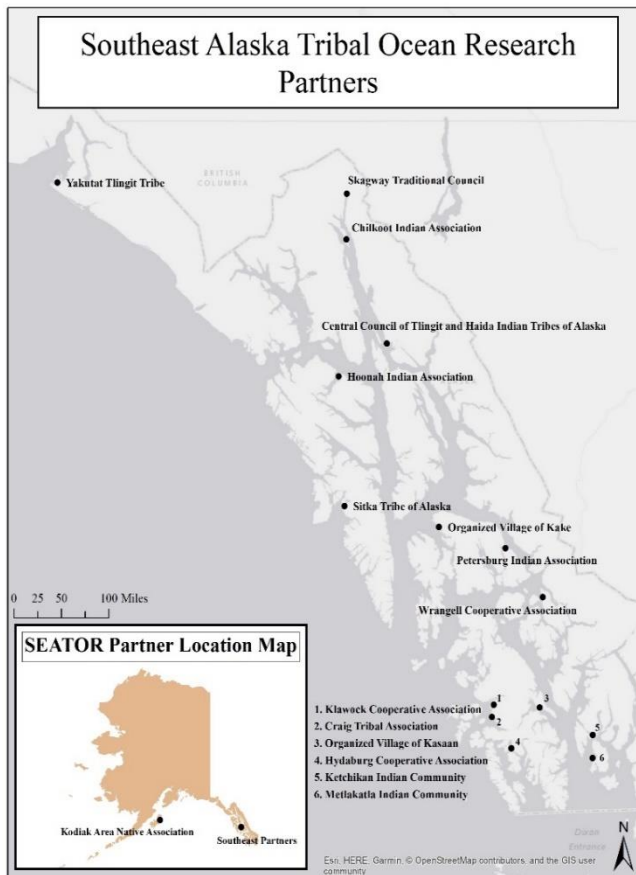
July 1, 2019



Elevated Levels of Paralytic Shellfish Toxins in Southeast Alaska and Kodiak

The Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research network (SEATOR) is a group of 16 Tribal Governments in Southeast Alaska and Kodiak monitoring shellfish for Paralytic Shellfish Toxins (PSTs) which cause Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) (Figure 1). SEATOR partners send shellfish samples to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska Environmental Research Laboratory (STAERL) for toxin analysis. STAERL has measured elevated levels of PSTs throughout Southeast Alaska in 2019. This Public Service Announcement is a summary of PST occurrences that exceeded the regulatory limit of 80 µg of toxins per 100 g of tissue (µg/100g) in 2019 as monitored by SEATOR partners. These data are generated by testing blue mussels, an indicator species, for PSTs.

Figure 1: SEATOR Partner Locations



April 2019

The first sample in 2019 that exceeded the regulatory limit of 80 µg/100g occurred on April 9th in Ketchikan. In previous years, the first sample to exceed the safety threshold was collected in mid to late April. Three weeks after the first sample exceeded the regulatory limit, blue mussel samples in Ketchikan were measured at 2161 µg/100g, more than 25 times the safety threshold for human consumption.

May 2019

Four communities had blue mussel samples over the regulatory limit in May (Kasaan, Ketchikan, Kodiak and Skagway). While Kasaan and Kodiak’s blue mussel samples were slightly over the regulatory limit, both Skagway and Ketchikan had toxin levels over 800 µg/100g.

June 2019

Eight communities had blue mussel samples over the regulatory limit in June. The northern Southeast communities of Haines, Juneau, and Skagway all had levels over 1400 µg/100g. The maximum PST level recorded in a blue mussel sample in 2019 so far is 4412 µg/100g, which was collected on June 18th from Auke Rec/Pt. Louisa in Juneau. This is the



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highest PST level in a blue mussel sample analyzed by STAERL since testing began in 2016. On Prince of Wales Island, both Craig and Klawock saw toxin levels over 350 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{g}$. In southern Southeast, Ketchikan continued to see elevated levels of more than 500 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{g}$ of PSTs. On Kodiak Island PSTs remained slightly over the regulatory limit.

Data

Forty-three blue mussel samples have exceeded the regulatory limit in 2019 (Tables 1-4). Sixteen samples from five different communities have tested over 800 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{g}$, which is ten times the safety threshold for human consumption. STAERL has been testing blue mussel samples for PSTs since 2016 and has never tested levels this elevated and in so many communities. Information in the tables is organized by region, community, site and date collected.

Table 1: Blue mussel samples with elevated PSTs in northern Southeast

Table 2: Blue mussel samples with elevated PSTs in southern Southeast

Table 3: Blue mussel samples with elevated PSTs on Prince of Wales Island

Table 4: Blue mussel samples with elevated PSTs on Kodiak Island

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning

PSP symptoms include tingling in the lips and fingertips, numbing of the arms and legs, nausea, difficulty breathing, and even death. Anyone with these symptoms should seek immediate medical care or call **9-1-1**. Suspected cases of PSP should be reported to the State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology at 907-269-8000, after hours 800-478-0084.

Based on current data, PSP risk levels are expected to remain elevated. Subsistence and recreational harvest is considered extremely dangerous.

Contact SEATOR with additional questions at (907)-966-9650 or seator@sitkatriben-sn.gov.



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Table 1: Northern Southeast

Haines Collected by Chilkoot Indian Association			
STAERL ID	Date Collected	Sample Site	PSP Result (µg/100g)
190616	6/5/2019	Kochu Island	476
190656	6/10/2019	Viking Cove	3594
190657	6/11/2019	Chilkat State Park	1491
Hoonah Collected by Hoonah Indian Association			
STAERL ID	Date Collected	Sample Site	PSP Result (µg/100g)
190720	6/24/2019	Gartina Creek/Harbor Way	144
190721	6/24/2019	Shaman Point/Cannery Beach	182
Juneau Collected by Tlingit and Haida			
STAERL ID	Date Collected	Sample Site	PSP Result (µg/100g)
190588	6/4/2019	Amalga Harbor	2187
190701	6/18/2019	Amalga Harbor	1606
190585	6/5/2019	Auke Rec/Pt. Louisa	1211
190679	6/18/2019	Auke Rec/Pt. Louisa	4412
Skagway Collected by Skagway Traditional Council			
STAERL ID	Date Collected	Sample Site	PSP Result (µg/100g)
190512	5/20/2019	Nahku Beach	886
190584	6/4/2019	Nahku Beach	741
190658	6/11/2019	Nahku Beach	2611
190661	6/18/2019	Nahku Beach	2275
190731	6/24/2019	Nahku Beach	1279

Table 2: Southern Southeast

Ketchikan Collected by Ketchikan Indian Community			
STAERL ID	Date Collected	Sample Site	PSP Result (µg/100g)
190411	4/9/2019	Seaport Beach	86
190455	4/22/2019	Seaport Beach	906
190488	4/30/2019	Seaport Beach	2161
190551	5/20/2019	Seaport Beach	614
190572	5/28/2019	Seaport Beach	1399
190655	6/10/2019	Seaport Beach	574
190555	5/20/2019	Herring Cove	561



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Table 3: Prince of Wales Island			
Craig Collected by Craig Tribal Association			
STAERL ID	Date Collected	Sample Site	PSP Result (µg/100g)
190602	6/4/2019	False Island Boat Launch	341
190672	6/18/2019	False Island Boat Launch	134
Kasaan Collected by Organized Village of Kasaan			
STAERL ID	Date Collected	Sample Site	PSP Result (µg/100g)
190556	5/23/2019	Whale House Beach	139
Klawock Collected by Klawock Cooperative Association			
STAERL ID	Date Collected	Sample Site	PSP Result (µg/100g)
190578	6/4/2019	Big Salt	116
190660	6/12/2019	Big Salt	366
190694	6/19/2019	Big Salt	163
190737	6/25/2019	Big Salt	300
190577	6/4/2019	City of Klawock Boat Launch	949
190659	6/12/2019	City of Klawock Boat Launch	655
190693	6/19/2019	City of Klawock Boat Launch	944
190736	6/25/2019	City of Klawock Boat Launch	1087

Table 4: Kodiak Island			
Kodiak Collected by Kodiak Area Native Association and Sunaq Tribe			
STAERL ID	Date Collected	Sample Site	PSP Result (µg/100g)
190536	5/21/2019	Mission Beach NE	128
190617	6/6/2019	Mission Beach NE	172
190443	4/20/2019	Mission Beach SW	109
190492	5/5/2019	Mission Beach SW	260
190537	5/21/2019	Mission Beach SW	265
190619	6/6/2019	Mission Beach SW	355
190678	6/17/2019	Mission Beach SW	88
190493	5/5/2019	South Trident Basin	121
190538	5/21/2019	South Trident Basin	104
190620	6/6/2019	South Trident Basin	121
190676	6/17/2019	South Trident Basin	111