

Second Razor Clam Dig Of The Season Approved

Local News

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OLYMPIA, Wash. - Clam diggers have a green light to proceed with the season's second razor-clam dig, starting at noon Friday, Nov. 5 on five ocean beaches. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) approved the dig after marine toxin tests confirmed the clams on those beaches are safe to eat. Digging will be allowed at Twin Harbors beach for four days, Nov. 5-8. Four other beaches - Copalis, Mocrocks, Kalaloch and Long Beach - will be open for two days of digging, Nov. 5-6. The National Park Service scheduled the dig at Kalaloch Beach, which is located within the Olympic National Park, to coincide with those at the other beaches. No digging will be allowed before noon on any of the five razor-clam beaches.

All diggers age 15 or older must have an applicable 2010-11 fishing license to harvest razor clams on any beach. Licenses, ranging from a three-day razor clam license to an annual combination fishing license, are available on WDFW's website at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov> and from license vendors around the state. Dan Ayres, WDFW coastal shellfish manager, said diggers heading to Copalis and Mocrocks should be aware of a traffic revision on eastbound U.S. Highway 101 in Hoquiam due to emergency work on the Simpson Avenue Bridge. "This is the only route to those beaches, so people should allow extra travel time to make sure they arrive on time," Ayres said. He advises diggers to check the Washington Department of Transportation website for updated information at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us101/simpsonbridgepierrepair/>. Olympic National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin also recommends that diggers take safety precautions during night digs, especially at Kalaloch. "Kalaloch is considerably more remote than the other clamming beaches, and visitors should be prepared for primitive conditions," she said. "With no streetlights or lighted buildings in the area, flashlights or lanterns are a necessity." Opening dates and evening low tides for the upcoming dig are: Nov. 5, Fri. - 6:41 p.m., (-1.4 ft.), Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis, Mocrocks, Kalaloch Nov. 6, Sat. - 7:26 p.m., (-1.6 ft.), Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis, Mocrocks, Kalaloch Nov. 7, Sun. - 7:11 p.m., (-1.5 ft.), Twin Harbors (daylight savings time ends) Nov. 8, Mon. - 7:55 p.m., (-1.2 ft.), Twin Harbors Areas opening for digging those days are defined as follows: Long Beach which extends from the Columbia River to Leadbetter Point. Twin Harbors Beach, which extends from the mouth of Willapa Bay north to the south jetty at the mouth of Grays Harbor. Copalis Beach, which extends from the Grays Harbor north jetty to the Copalis River, and includes the Copalis, Ocean Shores, Oyhut, Ocean City and Copalis areas. Mocrocks Beach, which extends from the Copalis River to the southern boundary of the Quinault Reservation near the Moclips River, including Iron Springs, Roosevelt Beach, Pacific Beach and Moclips. Kalaloch Beach, which extends from the South Beach Campground to Brown's Point (just south of Beach Trail 3) in the Olympic National Park. WDFW has tentatively scheduled another razor-clam dig at Long Beach and Twin Harbors later in November, pending the results of another round of marine toxin tests.

Tentative opening dates and evening low tides for that dig are: Nov. 20, Sat. - 5:39 p.m., (-0.4 ft.), Long Beach, Twin Harbors Nov. 21, Sun. - 6:17 p.m., (-0.7 ft.), Long Beach, Twin Harbors