

PSP toxin alert for Southeast shellfish

Earlier this month, Commissioner Bill Ross of DEC, warned Alaskans and visitors near coastal areas not to eat clams and mussels taken from Southeast beaches, because of the danger of paralytic shellfish poisoning. The warning was prompted by this weekend's extremely low tides, which normally attract clam diggers in search of their favorite shellfish.

"We hope that residents and visitors alike will enjoy outdoor activities this weekend, but suggest fishing, hiking, or other pur-

suits. Digging and eating Alaska clams may be hazardous to your health," said the Commissioner.

Ross said that four members of a family are recently got sick from clams taken from Steamer Point, Wrangell. DEC laboratory analysis of samples taken from the same area revealed PSP toxin "over ten times higher than the safe limit--potentially deadly levels." The Commissioner further stated that the potential remains very high for PSP toxin in all coastal areas of the Southeast.