

# Fish and Shellfish Consumption Advisory for Commencement Bay February 24, 2017



## Background

Pollution from past commercial and residential practices in and around Commencement Bay left a legacy of contamination. This resulted in unsafe concentrations of contaminants—mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)—in the water, sediment and in fish and shellfish. Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department issued a fish consumption advisory in 1985, recommending people not eat bottom fish, clams or crabs from the waterways. Even though there has been a tremendous amount of cleanup, the advisory remains in effect until samples shows contaminants in fish are at safe levels.

## Current Advisory

Washington State Department of Health expanded Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's advisory and recommends the following

[www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Food/Fish/Advisories/PugetSound/MarineArea11](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Food/Fish/Advisories/PugetSound/MarineArea11):

### **Commencement Bay Waterways (Thea Foss, Blair, and Hylebos Waterways)**

Do not eat crab, shellfish or bottom-feeding fish

### **Inner Commencement Bay**

Limit flatfish\* to two servings per month

### **Outer Commencement Bay** (boundary between Boathouse Marina and Brown's Point)

Limit flatfish to one serving per week or four servings per month.

### **Commencement Bay other than the Waterways**

No more than four servings of Dungeness Crab meat per month and no more than two servings of Dungeness Crab butter per month.

\* Flatfish include English Sole, Starry Flounder and Rock Sole

These guidelines do not include migratory fish like salmon. In general, up to three meals per week of salmon (or 12 servings per month) are acceptable. Limit servings of Chinook and Blackmouth salmon to two per month.

If you eat the recommended amount of servings per week or month, don't eat any additional fish, shellfish or crab that week from Puget Sound or the grocery store.

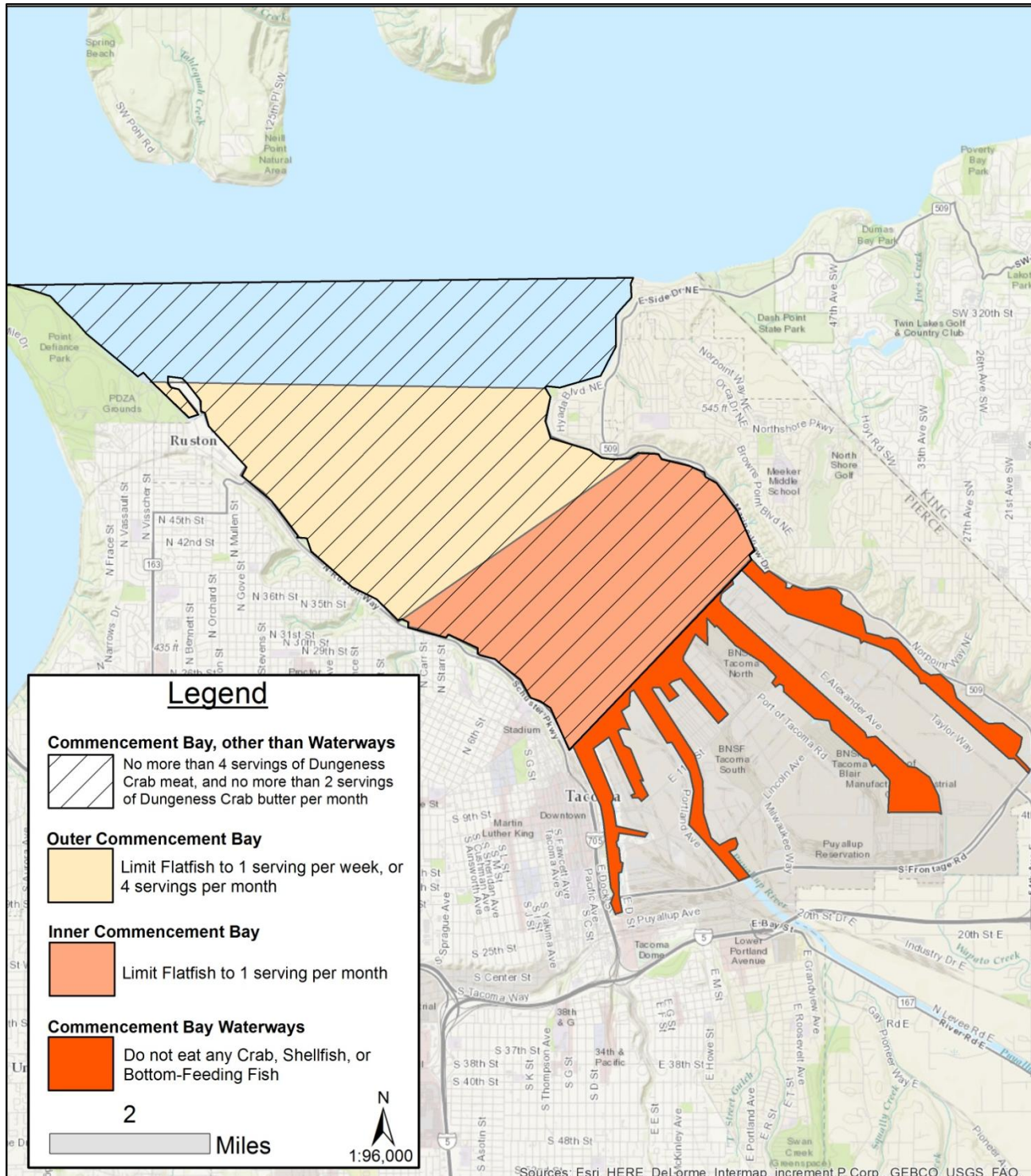
## Next Steps

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to sample fish this summer to see if contaminant concentrations have changed.

## For More Information

Contact us at (253) 798-6470 or [EHSurfaceWater-Shellfish@tpchd.org](mailto:EHSurfaceWater-Shellfish@tpchd.org).

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The map features are approximate and are intended only to provide an indication of said feature. Additional areas that have not been mapped may be present. This is not a survey. Orthophotos and other data may not align. The County assumes no liability for variations ascertained by actual survey. ALL DATA IS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED 'AS IS' AND 'WITH ALL FAULTS'. The County makes no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose.