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DHS lifts shellfish consumption advisory at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River

Environmental public health officials in the Oregon Department of Human Services are lifting a 2002 health advisory against harvesting and consuming crayfish and Asian clams at Bonneville Dam.

The advisory was lifted after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sampled the area immediately around Bradford Island at Bonneville Dam to analyze levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in crayfish.

Barbara Stifel, environmental health specialist in the DHS Public Health Division, says the analyses showed PCB levels were below those that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers potentially hazardous to human health. The Army Corps' sampling followed the clean-up and removal of sediment contaminated by discarded electrical equipment at the island.

Although DHS lifted the health advisory against eating Asian clams, the agency advises fishers that Oregon sport fishing regulations make it unlawful to take or possess Asian clams. Stifel says Asian clams are an invasive species that can take over habitat from native species, and harvesting them could hasten their spread to other areas.

Today's advisory removes the March 1, 2002, advisory DHS issued against harvesting or consuming crayfish or Asian clams near Bonneville Dam.