

Community Notice #2 22 October 2014

HEALTH WARNING

Don't collect shellfish

Biotoxin Alert



For Further Information contact:
Public Health Service and ask for the
On Call Health Protection Officer

Public Health Service
Nelson Marlborough
District Health Board

Phone: 03 5209999 Blenheim or 03 5461800 Nelson

Port Underwood Algal Bloom – do not eat the shellfish

Routine testing of shellfish in Port Underwood has shown the presence of the toxin that can cause Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP). The presence of this toxin means that eating shellfish could cause severe illness.

The area affected is all of inner Port Underwood.

Nelson Marlborough Medical Officer of Health Dr Ed Kiddle said “symptoms of this toxin were gut symptoms such as diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. They usually occur quickly within 1 hour or so but can be up to 12 hrs after eating shellfish”.

He advised people not to eat kina, mussels, pipi, tuatua, oysters and cockles harvested from affected areas since October 20, 2014.

“Scallops, paua, crab, and crayfish may still be eaten if the gut was completely removed prior to cooking. If the gut was not removed its contents could contaminate the meat during the cooking process,” he said.

“Cooking affected shellfish does not remove the toxin.” Fish, such as snapper, cod, gurnard, and terakihi were not affected by the toxin algae and are still safe to eat.

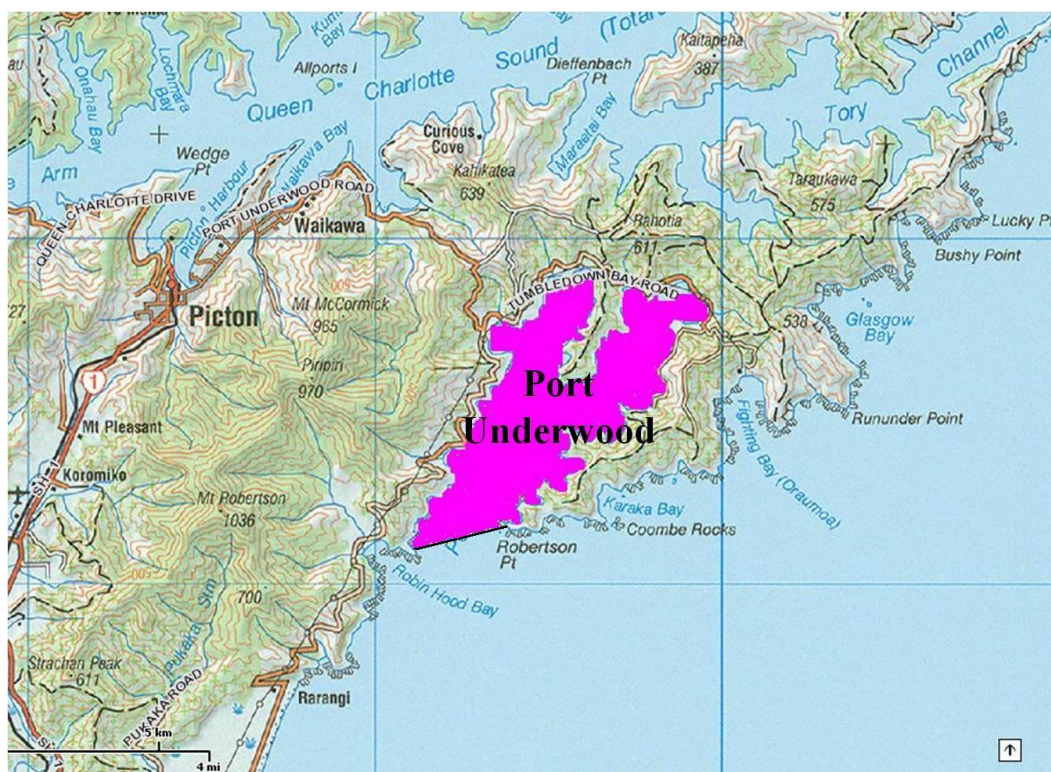
DSP group toxins are produced by a variety of phytoplankton species, mainly of the *Dinophysis* genus.

The affected area (shown on the attached map) is all of inner Port Underwood west of a line drawn from Robertson Point.

Continued monitoring of the situation is planned, but in the meantime people should not take shellfish from this area.

People who want more information about the safety of shellfish in their possession should contact the On Call Health Protection Officer on (03) 520 9999 Blenheim or (03) 546 1800 Nelson. People who become ill after eating shellfish should seek medical attention.

TOXIC SHELLFISH AREAS



DO NOT CONSUME SHELLFISH FROM THE AREA ([pink box])
OUTLINED ON THIS MAP

This Area Is Affected By Shellfish Biotoxins.

Shellfish Consumed From This Area May Be Harmful To Health.

Scallops, Crayfish, Paua And Finfish May Be Gathered And Consumed If The Gut (And Skirt Of Scallops) Is Removed.

For Further Information Contact:

**Nelson Marlborough Public Health Service,
Ph (03) 520 9914 Blenheim (03) 546 1537 Nelson (Work Hours)**

Or

AFTER HOURS – THE ON-CALL HEALTH PROTECTION OFFICER,

(03) 520 9999 BLENHEIM OR (03) 546 1800 NELSON

DATE OF NOTICE: 22 October 2014 Port Underwood Closure