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PRESS RELEASE

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PUBLIC HEALTH WARNS AGAINST CONSUMPTION OF RECREATIONALLY HARVESTED RAW SHELLFISH

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) -- The Santa Barbara County Public Health Dept. is issuing a warning to the public to avoid consuming recreational harvested raw shellfish caught in ocean waters where bacterial levels continue to be elevated. Ocean water testing since January 11 has shown markedly elevated levels of coliform bacteria along beaches from El Capitan to Carpinteria. The public is reminded to cook all locally caught seafood thoroughly before consumption, especially molluscan shellfish which are filter feeders and concentrate contaminants.

Ocean water testing will continue and this warning about consumption of recreationally caught shellfish will be lifted when test results warrant.

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