

NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 2005

MASON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Twanoh State Park Reopening of Swimming Beach

On Friday, June 3, 2005, the swimming beach at Twanoh State Park was closed by the Mason County Department of Health Services due to an elevated level of Enterococcus bacteria.

Our Department normally performs bacteriological monitoring once a week at this beach and found that the levels of bacteria at the swimming beach were elevated following the Memorial Day weekend period. Repeat sampling indicated that the elevated levels were still present, so the State Park was informed that the swimming beach was closed for swimming until the situation resolved. Only the area of the swimming beach at the park continued to show these elevated levels.

Repeat sampling this week has indicated to us that the elevated bacterial levels have disappeared. Effective the morning of June 8, 2005 we informed the State Park that we were reopening the beach at Twanoh State Park. This Department is continuing to investigate the causes of the elevation in bacterial levels, but as of this time have not found the cause. Monitoring of the park and investigation of the cause of this event are ongoing.

If you have questions, please contact Steve Kutz, Director, Health Services at (360) 427-9670 extension 260, or by pager at (360) 971-1385.

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Director, Health Services