

NEWS RELEASE



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Headline: Oregon Public Health officials lift crayfish harvest advisory for the McCormick and Baxter site on the Willamette River

Subhead:

Oregon Public Health environmental officials are lifting the advisory issued in 1991 against the commercial harvesting of crayfish within a radius of 1,000 feet of the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge on the Willamette River, the former McCormick and Baxter site near the St. Johns area in Portland.

The contaminated sediment in this 23-acre area was remediated and capped in 2005. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality sampled this site in 2006 and 2008 for contaminants harmful to human health in crayfish.

Two contaminants most closely scrutinized in the crayfish by public health officials were dioxin and inorganic arsenic. The most recent analyses in 2008 showed that dioxin levels in crayfish were below the minimal risk level for humans established by the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](#) of 0.000001 micrograms per kilogram of body weight per day. The inorganic arsenic levels in the crayfish were also below the guidance levels for unrestricted consumption, 0.088 milligrams per kilogram, established by the Environmental Protection Agency for the protection of people who eat fish. Other contaminants were either not found or were well below levels of concern.

This advisory removes the July 2, 1991, advisory issued by Oregon Public Health and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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