

PARTS OF OREGON COAST OPEN TO RECREATIONAL CRABBING

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced the opening of the ocean and bay recreational crab fishery along the southern Oregon coast from Floras Creek (just north of Port Orford) to the California border.

The ocean and bay recreational crab fishery also remains open along the northern coast from Tillamook Head

to the mouth of the Columbia River, including the area inside the Columbia River mouth. Tillamook Head is located between Seaside and Cannon Beach.

The 210-mile area between Tillamook Head and Floras Creek will remain closed to ocean and bay recreational crabbing due to elevated levels of domoic acid recently detected in the viscera of Dungeness crab.

Commercial crabbing is currently closed along the entire Oregon coast (in the ocean, in bays and in estuaries).

Changes in the status of the ocean commercial crab fishery will be considered next week upon consultation with the commercial crab industry and the Washington and California Fish and Wildlife agencies.

Additional crab viscera samples from impacted areas are being analyzed on a weekly

basis to determine when and where additional fishery openings will occur.

Two successive tests with domoic acid levels below the alert level are required to re-open areas for recreational and commercial crabbing.

It is recommended that crab always be eviscerated prior to cooking. Evisceration includes removing and discarding the internal organs and gills.

Despite the closure, crab and

shellfish products sold in retail markets and restaurants remain safe for consumers because these products were not harvested in areas closed for biotoxins.

Domoic acid or amnesic shellfish toxin can cause minor to severe illness and even death.

Severe poisoning can result in dizziness, headaches, vomiting and diarrhea.

More severe cases can result

in memory loss and death. Shellfish toxins are produced by algae and originate in the ocean.

Toxins cannot be removed by cooking, freezing or any other treatment.

For more information, call ODA's shellfish safety information hotline at 800-448-2474 or visit www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/FoodSafety/Shellfish/Pages/ShellfishClosures.aspx.

Cape Perpetua Discovery Series to explore Oregon's coastal geology

YACHATS — The picturesque Oregon Coast attracts many with its breath-taking beauty. But it also elicits cautionary fear with its warnings of earthquakes and tsunamis.

Ironically, the very geologic forces that threaten lives also are responsible for the spectacular mountains, valleys and coastlines that Oregonians and

state visitors cherish.

Oregon State University Emeritus Professor of Geosciences Bob Lillie, Ph.D., shares the connection between hazards and scenery in "Beauty from the Beast" at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, during the Cape Perpetua Winter Discovery Series at the Visitor Center, located three miles

south of Yachats.

Lillie draws on his experience as a geology professor, park ranger and graphic illustrator to reveal plate tectonics in action and explain the basics of Earth science in easy-to-understand ways.

"Beauty from the Beast" reminds Northwest residents and visitors that their home-

towns and iconic parklands are subject to geologic processes that affect their lives and livelihoods," Lillie said. "By learning to live with the beast of earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions, people can more fully appreciate the beauty that surrounds them."

Lillie will also be available to sign his new book "Beauty

from the Beast: Plate Tectonics and the Landscapes of the Pacific Northwest."

The book can be purchased at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center.

The Cape Perpetua Winter Discovery Series is an opportunity to explore topics and resources relevant to the Oregon Coast during the off-

season months between November and March.

All presentations and guided walks are free, but a Northwest Forest Pass, Oregon Coast Passport or \$5 day-use fee is required within the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area.

For more information, contact the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center at 541-547-3289.

Viks from 1B

Carreina Greenburg came in and provided the Viks with quality minutes on defense.

"They came in and really stepped up for us," said Tatum. "They played very well when we needed them most."

In the fourth quarter, Siuslaw rallied, outscoring the Falcons 18-12 to cut the deficit to just seven points before Elmira finished with the win, 51-44.

Though it was a loss, it was a vast improvement over the last time the Viks faced the Falcons, when Elmira defeated Siuslaw by 43 points.

"We're putting the pieces together," said Tatum, whose team will play 11 games in the next 19 days. "We're sort of throwing them into the fire, but I think when it's all over, we're going to be the team no one wants to play in the Far West."

Destinie Tatum led the Viks with 9 points and 8 rebounds. Abby Watkins had 7 points and

4 steals to go with a pair of blocked shots and 3 assists.

Claire Waggoner, Madison Reynolds and Long each had 5 points.

This weekend, the Vikings will play in the two-day Junction City Invitational, playing the host Tigers on Friday, then either Harrisburg or Dayton on Saturday.

On Dec. 16, Siuslaw will host top-ranked Cascade.

"We're excited to see what we can do over the next few weeks — and what we can do

in league," Tatum said.

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