

# Maine orders partial shellfishing shutdown, mussel recall

September 15 2017

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Maine is shutting down shellfish harvesting in parts of the state's eastern coast because of a marine algae bloom that can carry a neurotoxin.

The state Department of Marine Resources says it is monitoring the bloom, which carries [domoic acid](#). Domoic acid can cause sickness, memory loss and [brain damage](#) in humans.

The agency said Friday it also is in the process of recalling mussels harvested from Frenchman Bay because of elevated levels of domoic acid.

The Portland Press Herald ([bit.ly/2y9Zdmn](http://bit.ly/2y9Zdmn)) reports the department found levels of domoic acid that exceeded standards in shellfish tested between Mount Desert Island and Gouldsboro.

The department is enacting a precautionary closure from Deer Isle to Machiasport—almost a third of Maine's coastline.

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