

SHELLFISHING BAN.....2

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Toxins found in shellfish off the Canterbury coast have forced health authorities to ban shellfishing around Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. Canterbury medical officer of health Dr Mel Brieseman said the shellfishing ban took effect yesterday on the coastline from Waimairi Beach to Birdlings Flat, including Akaroa Harbour. Signs will be posted to warn the public about the closure, which affects the harvesting of scallops, tuatua, cockles, oysters, mussels, pipis, **cat's-eyes**, pupu, kina and sea urchin. Cooking does not remove toxins from these shellfish and does not make them safe to eat. Crayfish, crabs, paua and finfish can still be eaten as long as the gut is removed. They symptoms of poisoning are the rapid onset of abdominal pain, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting, usually within 24 hours of eating shellfish. People suffering these symptoms are advised to see their doctor.

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