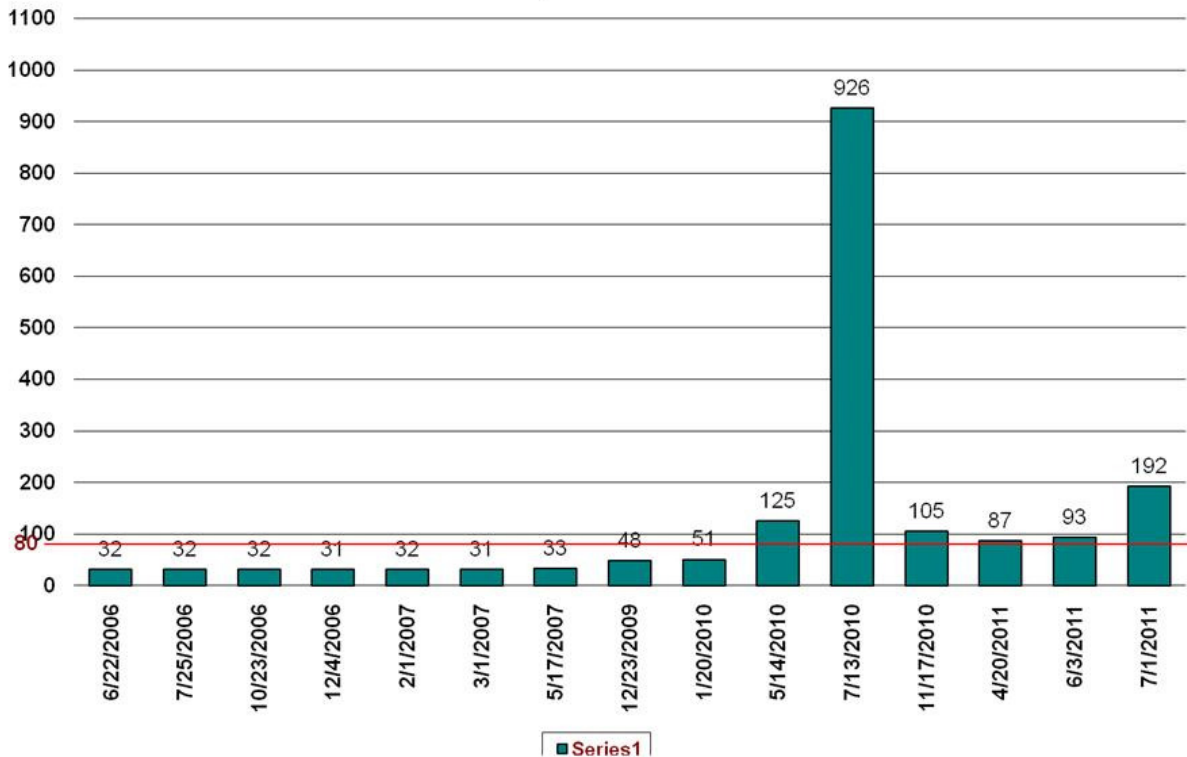


### Sand Point's Spit Beach PSP Results



**The Sand Point sample had elevated PSP toxin level of 192 micrograms and is above the FDA limit of 80 micrograms. These are dangerous PSP levels!**

PSP levels will likely be different in adjacent beaches and will change with time. Littleneck clams usually do not reach as high of toxicity levels as butter clams, and littleneck clam toxicity levels usually drop off quicker than butter clams. If you harvest/consume clams from Alaska beaches you should become familiar with all the clam species. Extreme caution should be taken when consuming any clams, scallops and mussels from Alaska's beaches.

Shellfish harvesters should be advised that paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) is a serious health risk when consuming personally harvested shellfish. Based upon the inability to predict PSP, and incidences in 2010 that included dangerous concentrations measured in blue mussels tested in the Haines area, illnesses that occurred in Kodiak and a fatality near Juneau, and very high PSP levels in Akutan, King Cove, Sand Point and Unalaska you are advised to not consume untested personally harvested bivalve shellfish (shellfish with two shells like clams, mussels, cockles and scallop).

Crabs feeding on toxic shellfish can accumulate PSP toxin in their digestive system, so I recommend that before cooking, remove the back shell of the crab and clean out all the dark soft tissues that compose the digestive system and crab butter.

The Response to Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning in Aleut Communities project is funded by the Region 10 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and managed by the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA). This project is a multi-agency collaboration designed to develop methods for communities to monitor occurrence and distribution of PSP toxins that will increase communities' capacities in devising a mechanism to better respond to the threat and minimize the risks of poisoning. The samples are all analyzed by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation using approved analytical methods. The attached table and figure include data from a previously funded North Pacific Research Board and EPA IGAP (King Cove) projects and data collected from the most recent EPA funded project. The data collection will continue through the summer of 2011. Note that the FDA limit for PSP is 80 micrograms/100 grams, the red line on the graphs. More information is available at <http://www.apiai.com/psp.asp>.