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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "LEAD FOUND IN YOUNG LOBSTER" NSY PORTSMOUTH ME  
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# Lead found in young lobster

By Larry Favinger  
Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD — Unusually high levels of lead have been found in juvenile lobster off the shipyard.

The samples were taken in September in the vicinity of the defense reutilization and marketing office (DRMO).

Frederick J. Evans, remedial project manager for the shipyard, said the lead levels "appear to be an order of magnitude (10 times) greater" than that found in samples taken downstream at Sullivan Point and upstream off the dry dock.

"That is higher than you would expect," Alan Robinson of the shipyard's public and congressional affairs office said yesterday, "and that is not good."

The information was part of a letter from Evans to Meghan Cassidy of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Iver McLeod of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP).

The testing was part of the interim offshore monitoring program for the installation restoration program and was requested by the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), which oversees the environmental cleanup of the shipyard as part of the Superfund process that includes McLeod and Cassidy.

The testing was prompted by the acknowledged erosion of

lead-contaminated soil from the area discovered this summer, a problem that has been solved.

Evans said in his report the sediment and mussel samples taken at the same time as the juvenile lobster "were within the range of the mussel samples collected" during the 1991 and 1993 estuarine ecological risk assessment and in some cases were actually lower.

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But they, too, were higher than those collected at Sullivan Point and the dry dock.

Because of the inconsistency of the data collected, the Navy will be reanalyzing the lobster sample from DRMO, comparing the laboratory results from the three monitoring stations, and determining whether laboratory methods are contributing to the higher detections of lead in juvenile lobster.

Ports. Herald