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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "NEW TESTS FIND LESS LEAD IN LOBSTERS NEAR SHIPYARD"  
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# New tests find less lead in lobsters near shipyard

Latest results, these from Texas university, find levels within same range as lobsters in other areas

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS  
Democrat Staff Writer

KITTERY, Maine — The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has received some good news in its effort to test its surrounding waters for lead contamination.

Shipyard Remedial Project Manager Fred Evans announced Thursday night that ultra-high concentra-

tions of lead found in juvenile lobsters off the shipyard's coast last fall were anomalies.

"We've received the rerun of the lobsters," Evans said. "The lead levels were lower and within the range of lobsters in other areas."

Last fall, the shipyard began sampling the meat and tissue of juvenile lobsters for lead contamination after erosion was spotted along the

perimeter of a former disposal site at the Defense Reutilization and Modernization Office.

The results of those samples, performed by an independent lab, concluded lobsters taken from three shipyard sites had unusually high concentrations of lead.

Following that news, Evans explained, the shipyard began to examine the data more closely to

determine the cause of the problem and to ascertain whether a laboratory error might be responsible for the results.

As it turned out, Evans said, the tests on the samples were not performed in the same manner as tests done at different reference sites by the state of Maine.

"The state of Maine removes the intestines before testing the tissue

for lead," Evans explained. "That was not done in the first sample. We repeated the sampling and had the lobsters tested at Texas A & M University."

With the intestines removed, Evans noted, "the lead levels were lower and within the range of lobsters in other areas."

And while this is good news — especially in the area where the ero-

sion occurred, Evans said the shipyard's monitoring program is far from over.

"We need to look at trends over time to see what it tells us," Evans said. Changes in the levels of lobsters at the shipyard, in specific locations at the shipyard or in general will help to pinpoint problem areas and alert officials to the need for remediation, Evans said.

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