

Chronological Summaries of NSSP Patrol Element Developments, 1995-Present.

1. Patrol Policy and Program Requirements.

- **November 1995.** FDA assembled a patrol working group comprised of representatives from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), ISSC, USCG, and members of the ISSC patrol committee. A review of the NSSP patrol policy document was undertaken toward the development of a draft patrol policy, a revision of the NSSP patrol document, a detailed risk assessment patrol model based on frequency of patrol in closed areas, and recommended frequencies of patrol based on the risk of illegal harvesting. The fundamental outcome of the work group meetings was the recommendation to develop and establish the minimum frequencies of patrol based upon the assessment of risk posed by illegal harvesting of shellfish in closed growing areas, with an adjunct recommendation that a pilot project be performed by FDA to determine the feasibility of rating certain criteria that could impact the level of risk such as: (a) amount of shellfish; (b) market value of the shellfish; (c) ease of harvest; (d) difficulty in the marketing the shellfish; and, (e) the difficulty of patrol.
- **December 4, 1996.** FDA CFSAN issued Field Assignment # 97-0, the pilot project recommended and based on criteria for the pilot project developed by the patrol working group.
- **March 1997.** The pilot project testing the patrol model, accomplished jointly by the FDA and State representatives was completed. FDA then reviewed the data obtained from 120 shellfish growing areas in 20 states, and arrayed the results for the working group in two tables. Subsequent conference calls developed a final report and recommendations.
- **June 1997.** A final report on the pilot project results and working group recommendation for a new patrol model was provided to each member of ISSC patrol committee in advance of the 1997 ISSC annual conference.
- **1997 ISSC Patrol Committee.** Committee members unanimously agreed that a revision of the patrol model was warranted based on the pilot project results and recommendations from the patrol working group. FDA incorporated the recommendations from the ISSC Patrol Committee in FDA CFSAN Field Assignment #98-18, issued on June 2, 1998.
- **August 1998.** The second FDA CFSAN patrol field assignment was completed, providing approximately 130 new survey reports. FDA then arrayed the information obtained from these reports in a database file. The patrol database was provided to the patrol working group at a meeting held in Biloxi, MS. The working group members continued working with FDA and state officials to develop uniform criteria for evaluating states patrol programs.
- **May 1999.** FDA and the patrol working group developed the final draft of the patrol policy requirement proposal and submitted this as an issue to the ISSC at the 1999 meeting.
- **1999 ISSC.** The issue was recommended by the Patrol Committee and Task Force I, and was adopted by the 1999 ISSC General Assembly. FDA concurred with incorporation in the NSSP Model Ordinance, Chapter VIII.
- **November 15, 1999.** The patrol working group reconvened, including stakeholders from the California Health Department, Washington Health Department, Canadian Law Enforcement Agency, NMFS, and the FDA Offices of Seafood and Compliance, to discuss the need for new patrol requirements specific for aquaculture sites and geographically remote areas. The patrol requirements adopted at the 1999 ISSC annual meeting did not provide adequate tools for determining the risk of illegal harvesting for aquaculture sites and geographically remote areas. FDA and the patrol working group developed a proposal to include patrol criteria for aquaculture sites and geographically remote areas.
- **May 2000.** FDA submitted the working group's final proposal as an issue to the ISSC at the 2000 meeting.

- **2000 ISSC.** The issue was recommended by the Patrol Committee, Task Force I, and was adopted by the 2000 ISSC General Assembly. Currently, NSSP Patrol requirements are being implemented by all U.S. shellfish producing states and 5 foreign MOU countries (Canada, Chile, Korea, Mexico, and New Zealand).
- **2000-2001.** Members of the patrol working group continued to periodically assist FDA CFSAN in developing a first Patrol Guidance Document. The intent of the document is to promote uniformity by providing guidance on policy describing how to conduct patrol evaluations.

2. Patrol Training.

- **2000 ISSC.** The next phase of implementing and maintaining effective and uniform patrol measures in the NSSP was discussed by the Patrol Committee. FDA shellfish patrol training courses designed for FDA Regional Shellfish Specialists and for state patrol officials were needed. A cadre of FDA, NMFS, Canadian, and state law enforcement officials was recommended for these purposes.
- **2000-2001.** FDA CFSAN assembled a training cadre of shellfish patrol evaluation experts, including officials from experts from NMFS, state patrol law enforcement officers, Canadian law enforcement officers, and FDA program representatives from both CFSAN and ORA. The cadre was charged with pioneering the development of a novel training approach to teach NSSP Model Ordinance (MO) patrol requirements. The course objective was to provide participants, principally FDA shellfish specialists, with a process for measuring and systematically analyzing the effectiveness of a state shellfish patrol program.
- **2001.** Following many months of cooperative development, FDA provided a highly innovative and successful Shellfish Patrol Evaluation training course in the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco, Georgia.
- **2002 ISSC.** The Patrol Committee Chairperson asked for volunteers from the Committee, or others, to assist FDA in its second phase of training development to provide instruction for state law enforcement officials. Patrol Officers from Maine, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas, and the state shellfish control authority from Oregon volunteered to assist FDA.
- **2003-2004.** FDA CFSAN has hosted 3 conference calls with the volunteer work group to establish the objectives, goals, and agenda of the training course, possible instructors, and the appropriate audiences. The volunteer work group proposed the development of a CD as the primary vehicle for delivering uniform training. The group agreed that patrol law enforcement officers would receive such training every year in service as part of their job requirements. In service training also could include specialized presentations from either the FDA Regional Shellfish Specialist or from other patrol officers.
- **June 11, 2004.** FDA CFSAN provided the volunteer work group with a draft agenda and training segment assignments by e-mail. All of the presentations are due to FDA CFSAN on August 15, 2004. Immediately following this, a meeting of the volunteer work group to critically review each presentation and reach consensus for finalizing the training CD is concurrently being planned to occur in Florida (most cost-effective option). FDA shellfish patrol experts, involved since 1995 (CFSAN's Miriam Stuckey, ORA's Alexander Ondis), will attend.