

**ISSC 2005 Biennial Meeting
August 13-19, 2005 – Point Clear, Alabama
Committee Report**

Name of Committee:	Vibrio Management Committee	
Chairperson:	Kirk Wiles, Vice Chair	
Date of Meeting:	Monday, August 15, 2005	
Attendees:	Nancy Napolilli Steve Fleetwood Bill Hastback Mike Hickey Don Kraemer Dan Leonard Paul Comar Tom Herrington	Bill Dewey Spencer Garrett David Heil Lori Howell Bill Kramer Marc Glatzer Rob Wittman Al Rainosek
Vp Charge 1:	Proposal 98-107 Vp Interim Control Plan	
Findings:	There may be methods other than those in VpICP guidance that may reduce the risk of Vp illnesses.	
Recommendations:	Retain the current VpICP Interim Guidance until the 2007 ISSC biennial meeting. States should continue to evaluate which controls and monitoring may work best at limiting the occurrence of illnesses under various regional and seasonal harvesting and handling practices.	
Vp Charge 2:	Identify and evaluate alternate (<i>to those in place under the Vp Interim Control Plan – VpICP</i>) controls that would address sporadic cases of Vp illness. Develop recommendations for the 2005 biennial meeting.	
Findings:	<p>The Subcommittee began considering this charge in 2004, based on an FDA discussion paper developed and presented by the agency at the ISSC 2003 annual meeting and based on its unreleased Vp Risk Assessment. At subsequent meetings, including May 2005, FDA has presented data in tables and other forms from the draft risk assessment. FDA has described how the CDC illness estimate and a variety of other time/temperature and Vp monitoring data were used to estimate Vp illness risk under a variety of regional and seasonal conditions, with risk linked primarily to shellstock temperatures post-harvest. The agency has also prepared and presented models to show how various shellstock cooling control measures might limit increases in Vp levels post-harvest caused by a rise product temperature.</p> <p>In prior meetings as well, the Subcommittee has acknowledged that Vp illnesses are a concern and noted that specific shellstock temperature control measures might be helpful as a “tool box” to be considered for application as determined in various regions and seasons. However, a number of Subcommittee members have</p>	

voiced comments and questions about the illness data and other information used in the risk assessment, the resultant models developed, performance criteria to measure effects of implementing any new harvest/handling practices, and costs for the controls.

To help with deliberation, the Subcommittee asked that FDA make its Vp Risk Assessment public and that FDA provide cost/benefit analyses on the implementation of various shellstock temperature controls on selected regional and seasonal bases. Without that information, the Subcommittee reached no conclusion or consensus about the need for or scope of additional guidelines or mandatory controls for reducing Vp sporadic cases. (See full reports of Vp meetings of March 2004, August 2004, and May 2005 for more detail of prior discussions and findings).

In addressing these requests, the FDA publicly released and published its Vp Risk Assessment at the end of July. FDA economists also collected information on regional shellfish harvesting and handling practices and projected costs and benefits of reductions in Vp illness associated with various controls put in place regionally and seasonally. That information was provided to the Subcommittee in early August.

During the August 14 meeting, FDA presented its cost/benefit analyses of implementing selected controls to more rapidly cool shellstock post-harvest. Costs were estimated for capital investments and operational expenditures for more rapid cooling of shellstock on a regional and seasonal basis. Costs were not projected for the additional resources of state regulators to ensure controls would be put in place and adhered to. Benefits were shown as illnesses (both Vp and V. vulnificus) estimated to be prevented times a societal cost in dollars per illness. Additional benefits that might accrue to the shellfish industry from new harvest/handling practices were not estimated.

Subcommittee members acknowledged and thanked FDA for this information, and much discussion focused on the estimates. Several members indicated they desired more time to review the full set of materials presented just prior to the meeting. FDA agreed to provide information on the derivation of the estimated \$18,000 cost per Vp illness used as one component in the cost/benefit analyses. FDA, as in prior meetings, solicited more participation from the industry on current harvesting/handling practices and costs of implementing new practices to control shellstock temperature. Costs to state regulatory programs should be gathered and projected, and estimates of impacts on tribal and small, single boat harvesters should be provided. The full Subcommittee agreed that these more complete and improved cost/benefit analyses can be prepared only through cooperation of states and industry.

Finally, the potential new shellstock control measures would result in major changes in harvest and handling in some segments of the shellfish industry. Workshops with industry were recommended to share information about Vp illness risk, potential control measures and cost/benefit analyses.

Recommendations: Retain the current VpICP Interim Guidance until the 2007 ISSC biennial meeting.

Charge the Vp Subcommittee to identify and evaluate control strategies that could be implemented on a regional basis to reduce the risk of Vp illnesses from both

	<p>sporadic cases and outbreaks. The approach will encompass the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. In concert with the FDA, the Subcommittee will evaluate and provide information to improve the FDA's Vp Risk Assessment and cost/benefit analyses on a regional basis. ii. The Subcommittee will work through the ISSC Office to structure, schedule and ensure the conduct of regional meetings to include the shellfish industry, economists, state regulators and others as determined by the Subcommittee. Regions will be those projected in the Vp Risk Assessment to account for the large majority of Vp illnesses. iii. The purpose of the meeting is to: 1) exchange information on Vp illnesses, 2) evaluate costs and benefits of various controls if implemented, specific to practices of the industry in that region, and 3) discuss the need to implement such controls. iv. Reports findings and recommendations from those meetings to the regional participants, Vp Subcommittee, Vibrio Management Committee, and Executive Board. v. Receive and review comments and modify reports as needed. vi. Complete a consolidated report and recommendations for the 2007 biennial meeting.
Vp Charge 3:	Finalize the prioritized list of research needs
Findings:	Completed. This list was prepared and finalized on April 5, 2004 and attached as an addendum to the March 2004 Subcommittee report.
Vp Charge 4:	Continue efforts to enhance the CDC report form to include additional epidemiological and environmental information. Include harvest location and date of harvest.
Findings:	None. Action deferred due to concentration on Charge 2.
Recommendations:	Consider at next Subcommittee meeting.
Vp Charge 5:	Provide clarification to instructions for Vp illness data collection
Findings:	Completed. The Subcommittee's August 10, 2004 report indicated no further need to revise these instructions.
Recommendations:	
Vp Charge 6:	Complete the 2002 illness data summary table
Findings:	None. Action deferred due to concentration on Charge 2.

Recommendations:	Consider at next Subcommittee meeting.
Vv Ed Charge 1:	Submit a detailed report to the VMC on education activities twice yearly.
Findings:	<p>Dot Leonard, ISSC State Coordinator, provided an overview of accomplishments by states.</p> <p>Individual State Reports were provided by Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas State Coordinators provided updates on their respective state's accomplishments.</p> <p>Paul Balthrop provided the subcommittee with an update on the Walgreen Pharmacy initiative which will incorporate warnings, of the risk of eating raw shellfish, on the prescriptions of the at-risk population. These warnings will be printed directly on the prescription label. Mike Lucas, Regional Manager for Walgreen Pharmacy announced Walgreen's plans to distribute brochures on the risk of <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> in all prescriptions filled for at-risk patients. The brochures will be initially distributed in 650 stores in Florida and Puerto Rico. Nationwide distribution in the 5000 Walgreen Pharmacies is expected within the next twelve months. By the end of 2005, Walgreen pharmacists will counsel all at-risk patients nationwide.</p> <p>Joanne McNeely, Florida Department of Agriculture, Chief, Bureau of Seafood and Aquaculture Marketing provided the subcommittee with examples of products that could be developed for other states, if Florida benefited from them also.</p>
Conclusions:	<p>States are actively pursuing educational endeavors. More interactions are needed between the states' coordinators to share successful projects.</p> <p>Spanish language educational materials such as the novellas are needed for inclusion into state education programs.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>State Coordinators should meet, along with invited Subcommittee members, to exchange ideas and discuss future direction for Vv education. Materials developed for the California education campaign for the Spanish population should be distributed to state coordinators for use in their outreach to the Spanish population in their respective states.</p> <p>Recommends the state coordinators should meet a day prior to the Vv Education Subcommittee meeting. The Vv Education Subcommittee also needs additional meeting time.</p>
Vv Ed Charge 2:	Provide guidance to the ISSC Executive Director in seeking funds for and conducting subsequent education surveys to evaluate Vv education efforts.
Findings:	Mr. Herrington provided CDC wound information.

Conclusions:	With NOAA's Human Health initiative this may be a good opportunity to partner with various agencies including EPA and CDC in developing Vv educational material in consort with Vv wound information
Recommendations:	Seek partnership with NOAA, CDC, and EPA in developing Vv educational material. See also charge 4 recommendations
Vv Ed Charge 3:	Continue providing review and comments on educational materials being developed by the ISSC.
Findings:	A draft DVD of the Harvesting Control video was viewed by the Subcommittee.
Conclusions:	The Subcommittee agreed that it was a great start, but need some editing of the message. Comments from the subcommittee are due to the chair by October 1, 2005
Recommendations:	Focus group comprised of harvesters should review the video and provide feedback on its level of understanding and clarity of the message.
Vv Ed Charge 4:	Review the 2004/2005 Consumer Survey results, report the findings, and make recommendations for follow up.
Findings:	Dot Leonard and Tom Herrington provided a brief review of the follow-up survey of Raw Oyster Consumption in four states. Little change in knowledge or behavior was evident in the statistical results. Since April 2005 survey results reflect little progress, the Conference needs to re-double at-risk education efforts.
Conclusions:	The Subcommittee will provide specific comments and/or questions on the survey to the Chairperson by October 1, 2005. The comments and any questions raised will be provided to the appropriate ISSC officials. A follow-up survey is needed but the Walgreen campaign and other state Vv education initiatives should be given time to have their effectiveness measured.
Recommendations:	The Subcommittee recommended that a third survey be conducted in the Fall/Winter of 2007, using the same parameters used in the current survey.
Vv Charge 1:	Proposal 03-209 Time Temperature Requirements for Harvesters

Recommendations: The Vv Subcommittee recommendation on Proposal 03-209, with concurrence by the Patrol Committee:

NSSP Model Ordinance Chapter VIII. Control of Shellfish Harvesting

.03 Shellstock Temperature Control

Under Option 1 and Option 2, insert between E. and F. and C. and D., respectively, the following addition:

The Authority may set up a plan that allows for exemption of this option for shellstock that is to be post harvest processed with an approved post harvest process in accordance with NSSP Model Ordinance Chapter VIII. . Control of Shellfish Harvesting .03 Shellstock Temperature Control, provided the Authority has developed a plan to ensure the security of shellstock harvesting

Vv Charge 2 : Proposal 03-212 Validation/Verification Interim Guidance

Recommendations: The validation/verification workgroup has been diligently working on changing the current (PHP) validation protocol approach from a less than 30 MPN/g to a log reduction approach of at least 3.54 logs, which will provide a level of protection at least equivalent to the current Validation/Verification Interim Guidance. While the workgroup is not prepared to make specific protocol recommendations at this time, it is contemplated that this new approach (which is more conventional approach for process validation) can be completed by January 2006 or sooner.

The PHP Workgroup requested that it be allowed to continue to work on a revised approach and when completed, that it be considered by the Board as a interim measure, either at its next scheduled meeting in March or sooner by polling the Board, if the new approach can be completed well in advance of its next meeting in March.

Vv Charge 3: Proposal 00-201 Vv Risk Management Plan

Findings: Vv illness numbers reported: CDC – 48 – FDA 32. CDC makes assumption if wound is not reported; it is a foodborne illness and shellfish related. CDC makes no attempt to eliminate non-commercial consumption or differentiate shellfish species.

Recommendations: The Vv Subcommittee recommends to the Vibrio Management Committee communicate to the Executive Board that the Conference has made significant progress toward achieving the 40% illness reduction goal as reflected in the 2004 rates compared to the baseline in the core states. Additionally, FDA has found all states required to implement Vv Management Plan are in compliance with the Model Ordinance. It should be noted that this is not an indication for a reduction in current efforts.

The VMC passed the following motion:

In the 3 gulf core states the illness rate reduction was 32% from their baseline. In all four core states the reduction was 47%. Likely factors that contributed to the illness reduction include increased voluntary post harvest processing, education of at-risk individuals and California's action to ban non-post harvest processed oysters. The conference will continue to pursue additional methods to measure success or failure of the risk management plan both in the core states and nationally.

Don Kraemer made a motion to substitute California as a core state with Georgia and Alabama. The motion did not pass.

Recorder: Nancy Daniel

Approved by: Kirk Wiles