

PRESS RELEASE: *Norovirus*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oregon Oyster Farms Inc. RECALLS Raw, Ready-to-Eat Shucked and In-Shell Oysters Harvested from Yaquina Bay *BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE HEALTH RISK*

Oregon Oyster Farms of Newport, Oregon, is recalling **all of its shucked oysters and shellstock oysters that were harvested from Yaquina Bay** because they have the potential to be contaminated with norovirus, an organism that can cause acute gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and intestines).

Persons infected with *norovirus* often experience sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain. Other symptoms can include headache and body aches, and a fever. Dehydration can be a problem, especially among the very young, the elderly and people with other illnesses. Symptoms usually occur 12 to 48 hours after being exposed to the virus. The illness typically lasts one (1) to three (3) days.

Product was distributed to restaurants and retail stores in Oregon, and from the company's on-site store and to wholesale accounts in New York and Massachusetts.

The recall includes ½-gallon and 1-pint plastic tubs, and 10-ounce plastic jars from Oregon Oyster Farms Inc., Raw/Ready-to-eat Shucked Oysters, with sell by dates from February 19 through March 8, and in-shell oysters in plastic mesh bags, with harvest dates of February 5 through February 15. This recall includes oysters harvested only from Yaquina Bay.

The recall is the result of an epidemiologic investigation of a *Norovirus* outbreak in Oregon. There have been a number of reported cases of *Norovirus* illness related with the consumption of raw oysters to date.

On February 15th, Oregon Oyster Farms ceased the harvest of oysters from Yaquina Bay. Oysters harvested from other bays are not included in this recall. The Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the company continue to investigate the cause of the problem.

Consumers who have purchased the following products from Oregon Oyster Farms Inc. are urged to discard it or return it to the place of purchase for a full refund.

- Raw/Ready-to-eat Shucked Oysters harvested from Yaquina Bay, and
- In-Shell Oysters, harvested from Yaquina Bay

Consumers with questions may contact the company at (541) 265-5078.