

Proposal Subject	<i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> Risk Management Plan for Oysters exemption for licensed shellfish harvesters and certified dealers who produce fewer than 1.5 million raw oysters per year and/or sell all of their oysters directly to retailers.
Specific NSSP Guide Reference	Change Model Ordinance by adding Chapter II@.04 New B.
Text of Proposal/ Requested Action	Add a new section Chapter II@.04 B. Exemptions. This section does not apply to licensed shellfish harvesters and certified shellfish dealers who produce fewer than 1.5 million raw oysters per year and/or sell all of their oysters directly to retailers.
Public Health Significance	<p>The <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> Risk Management Plan for Oysters was introduced to the ISSC as being modeled after the U.S. Egg Safety Action Plan. The NSSP which has been in existence since 1925 is far more restrictive than FDA's October 2004 proposed rule for Egg Safety and the Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis in Shell Eggs During Production and certain egg producers.</p> <p>The most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that SE illnesses have essentially remained steady for the past several years. CDC estimated that 118,000 illnesses were caused by consumption of SE-contaminated eggs in 2001. Accordingly, FDA believes that further actions to improve egg safety--building upon the safe consumer handling labeling and egg refrigeration at retail rule of 2000--are the most effective way to achieve our public health goals of a 50% reduction in overall salmonellosis and a 50% reduction in SE outbreaks by 2010.</p> <p>In comparison to an annual average of less than 40 <i>V.v.</i> infections to high-risk consumers that are attributed to shellfish, approximately half of those persons infected die, there are approximately 40,000 cases of salmonellosis reported in the United States annually. Because many milder S.E.cases are not diagnosed or reported, the actual number of S.E. infections may be thirty or more times greater. It is estimated that approximately 600 persons die each year with acute salmonellosis. Just as with <i>V.v.</i> infections, Salmonellosis infections are more common in the summer than winter. Young children, the elderly, and the immunocompromised are the most likely to have severe S.E. infections.</p> <p>Since the FDA has proposed a rule that exempts certain egg producers from the rule and the rule is far less burdensome to the egg industry than the <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> Risk Management Plan for Oysters is on the Gulf oyster industry, an exemption should be given to oyster producers as suggested.</p>
Cost Information (if available)	None
Action by 2005 Task Force I	Recommended referral of Proposal 05-100 to the appropriate committee as determined by the Conference Chairperson.
Action by 2005 General Assembly	Adopted recommendation of 2005 Task Force I.
Action by USFDA	Concurred with Conference action.
Action by 2007 Vibrio Management Committee	Recommended adoption of Proposal 05-100 as a research need. More data is needed on the number of small harvesters and the number of small dealers; the percentage of all harvesters and dealers in the affected states that are in this category; the number of illnesses attributable to these small harvesters or dealers; other food commodities that allow exemptions from public health requirements based on the small size of the harvester/producer/processor; and the pathogens of concern with these other foods.

Action by 2007 Task Force I	Recommended adoption of the Vibrio Management Committee recommendation on Proposal 05-100.
Action by 2007 General Assembly	Adopted recommendation of 2007 Task Force I.
Action by USFDA	December 20, 2007 Concurred with Conference action.