

September 20, 2011

To State Health Officials:

This message is to notify you that the Washington State Department of Health has initiated a growing area closure and recall for pacific oysters harvested from the Washington Shellfish Growing Area known as Hood Canal #4. The recall extends from August 30, 2011 through September 19, 2011. The department initiated this growing area closure and recall due to three laboratory confirmed and two epidemiologically confirmed *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* illnesses since August 30, 2011. Two of the confirmed illnesses constitute an outbreak under Chapter [II@.01.C](#) of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance and this requires that a recall be initiated.

All shellfish growers harvesting in Hood Canal #4 and dealers in Washington that received the recalled oysters have contacted their customers in your state and instructed them to remove any remaining recalled oysters from the market and to place them in quarantine until the destruction can be witnessed by a local health official. A spreadsheet of the shippers and receiving companies is being prepared and will be forwarded to you tomorrow. If there are any questions, please contact me via email or at 360.236.3309, or via email at [Frank.Cox@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Frank.Cox@doh.wa.gov). Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Frank Cox, Biotxin Coordinator  
Office of Shellfish & Water Protection  
Division of Environmental Health  
Department of Health  
PO Box 47824  
111 Israel Road Southeast  
Tumwater, WA 98501  
(360) 236-3309  
FAX: (360) 236-2257

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