

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is issuing a Notice of Advisory for oyster shellstock harvested from Shell Rock oyster beds. This announcement is in conjunction with continued oversight activities of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the US Food and Drug Administration.

The reason for this advisory is due to three (3) confirmed cases of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*V.p.*) as reported to the NJDOH from the States of Maryland and Virginia Departments of Health. During the summer season, *V.p.* illnesses are all associated with one shellstock harvest area in NJ growing waters named Shell Rock Oyster Beds located in Delaware Bay. The harvest dates associated with these cases are June 7, 2013, June 19, 2013, and June 27, 2013.

Please note: All harvesting of oysters from Shell Rock Oyster Beds have been terminated by the NJDEP as of July 17, 2013.

Although the harvest has been terminated at the implicated harvest area, the NJ Department of Health is advising all health departments and state authorities, nationwide, to be aware of this advisory of Shell Rock harvest during their routine inspections of wholesale and retail food establishments. Given the harvest dates as reported with the illnesses, a determination was made that a voluntary recall of product is not necessary. It is also noted that typically, fresh oyster product is used and consumed within a short time period after harvest, so there should be little, if any, remaining product on the market.

Should you observe any of the implicated product from Shell Rock Oyster Beds, please embargo and contact:

Cali Alexander
NJDOH Seafood/Shellfish Coordinator
609-826-4935

Thank you.