Proposal Subject

Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharges

Specific NSSP Guide Reference

NSSP Guide Chapter IV. Shellstock Growing Areas
@ .03 Growing Area Classification. C. Conditional Classifications. (2) Management Plan Required. (a) (ii); and
E. Prohibited Classification. (5) Wastewater Discharges.

Text of Proposal/ Requested Action

Chapter IV. Shellstock Growing Areas @ .03 Growing Area Classification.
C. Conditional Classifications. (2) Management Plan Required.

(a) For management plans based on wastewater treatment plant function, performance standards that include:

(i) Peak effluent flow, average flow, and infiltration flow;
(ii) Bacteriological **or viral** quality of the effluent;
(iii) Physical and . . .

Chapter IV. Shellstock Growing Areas @ .03 Growing Area Classification.
E. Prohibited Classification. (5) Wastewater Discharges.

(b) The determination of the size of the area to be classified as Prohibited adjacent to each outfall shall include the following minimum criteria:

(i) The volume flow rate, location of discharge, performance of the wastewater treatment plant and the bacteriological **or viral** quality of the effluent;
(ii) The decay rate . . .

Public Health Significance

Some of the new wastewater treatment technologies, such as membrane bioreactors, produce bacteria-free effluent. However, the effluent may still contain pathogenic viruses. The Model Ordinance should be amended to acknowledge the potential impact of enteric viruses and allow the use of microorganisms other than bacteria to help determine the size of the area to be classified as prohibited adjacent to a wastewater treatment plant outfalls. For the sake of consistency, the Model Ordinance should also be amended to allow the viral quality of effluent to be used in conditionally approved area management plans.

The number of shellfish-associated illnesses caused by enteric viruses is rising, while those caused by bacteria appear to be decreasing (Richards, G.P. 1985. Outbreaks of shellfish-associated enteric illness in the U.S. J. Food Prot. 48:815-23). This and other references to virus associated illnesses in shellfish are discussed in Chapter 3 of Environmental Indicators and Shellfish Safety (Hackney and Pierson 1994).

Cost Information (if available)

Not available. However, state shellfish authorities that do not have the resources to evaluate virus discharges from wastewater treatment plants are allowed to continue using (only) bacteriological quality of the effluent for these two M.O. requirements.

Action by 2005 Task Force I

Recommended No Action on Proposal 05-104.

Rationale - The National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) has no viral indicator standards.

Action by 2005 General Assembly

Recommended referral of Proposal 05-104 to the appropriate committee as determined by the Conference Chairman.

Action by USFDA

Concurred with Conference action.