

**ISSC 2017  
Committee Report**

**Committee Name :** Growing Area Classification

**Chairperson:** Shannon Jenkins

**Date of Meeting:** 10/15/17

**Recorder:** Shannon Jenkins

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name:** Shannon Jenkins

**Committee Members Present:**

☒ Shannon Jenkins  
(Chairperson)

☒ Michael Bott

☒ Kathy Brohawn

☒ Greg Dale

☐ Bruce Friedman

☒ Tom Howell

☒ Kohl Kanwit

☒ Jeff Kennedy

☒ Alex Manderson

☒ Mike Pearson

☒ Bob Rheault

☐ Chris Roberts

☒ George Scanlan

☒ Brian Roughan

☒ Keith Skiles

☒ Brian Yarmosh

☐ Joel Hansel

(EPA Delegate)

☒ John Veazey

(FDA Delegate)

☐ Angela Ruple

(NOAA Delegate)

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**Charges**

**Charge 1: Proposal 11-103 Alternative Male-specific Coliphage Meat Standard for Restricted Classification of Growing Areas Impacted by wastewater treatment plant outfall.**

Findings/Conclusions: In 2011, three proposals were submitted that addressed various aspects of using MSC in the NSSP. At the 2013 Growing Area Classification committee, an MSC Summit was proposed to gather experts, disseminate information, and discuss uses of the viral indicator MSC. The 2014 MSC Summit in Charlotte, NC focused on technical presentations and discussion by MSC experts. At the Growing Area Committee immediately following the Summit, the question was addressed “Should MSC be used in conjunction with fecal coliform in effectiveness studies and process controls for depuration plants? The committee action stated: “The committee recommends support of the concept of these uses and recommends that a workgroup be formed to draft proposal language...for Committee review and submission for discussion at the 2015 Biennial Meeting.” The workgroup focused on the broader Chapter IV modifications that would be needed to allow for these new uses rather than focusing on the uses themselves. With limited time available, the GAC decided to table proposal 11-103 until the 2017 ISSC.

The Growing Areas Classification Committee met via conference call on 9/13/17 and 10/4/17 and agreed to focus on alternative concepts “#1” and “#3” presented for consideration in place of the original proposal. A compromise concept was presented and amended at the 10/15/17 GAC committee meeting. The committee agreed to recommend amended language regarding the use of MSC for restricted classification of Growing Areas impacted by WWTP outfalls as detailed below:

Recommendations: The Growing Area Classification Committee recommends the adoption of amended Proposal #11-103 as follows:

## Specific NSSP Guide Reference

Section II. Model Ordinance  
Chapter IV. Shellstock Growing Area  
@ .02 Bacteriological Standards  
*and*  
Chapter XV. Depuration  
@ .03 Other Model Ordinance Requirements

## Text of Proposal/Requested Action

G. Standard for the Restricted Classification of Growing Areas Affected by Point Sources and Used as a Shellstock Source for Shellstock Depuration.

~~(4) — Exception.~~

~~If the Male-specific Coliphage indicator is used for supplemental process verification using an end-point meat standard of < 50PFU/100gm and existing fecal coliform testing requirements in Chapter XV .03 J. are used, then FC water quality monitoring is not required for the restricted classification of growing areas affected by point sources such as wastewater treatment plant outfall.~~

*New Section Chapter XV @.03 K Supplemental Requirements for Depuration using MSC Viral Controls for Shellstock Harvested from Conditionally Restricted Growing Areas Impacted by WWSD*

### K. Supplemental Requirements for Depuration using MSC Viral Controls for Shellstock Harvested from Conditionally Restricted Growing Areas Impacted by Wastewater System Discharge (WWSD).

If the conditionally restricted growing area from which the shellstock is being depurated is impacted by wastewater treatment system discharge (generally that section of the conditionally restricted growing area located within the 300:1 to 1000:1 dilution lines), then supplemental requirements for depuration using MSC viral controls may be required. Depuration using MSC viral controls may be seasonally limited and may be species and depuration facility specific. Contaminant reduction studies as described in (1) below are recommended unless the SSCA and the Depuration Facility Operator have significant experience with the depuration process using MSC viral controls.

(1) Male-specific coliphage may be used in addition to fecal coliform for species-specific, growing area-specific, and depuration system-specific contaminant reduction studies. These contaminant reduction studies should demonstrate that;

(a) Predictable periods of time exist when male-specific coliphage levels are less than 1,000 PFU/100gm in shellfish meats,

(b) Male-specific coliphage and fecal coliform can be consistently reduced below end-point requirements, and

(c) Critical limits of season, process water temperature and salinity, and system design and operation limitations can be assessed and determined

(d) Species-specific operating protocols may be developed from the contaminant reduction studies for each conditionally restricted growing area that includes;

- (i) Calendar dates when depuration shall be permitted,
- (ii) Water temperature and salinity limitations,
- (iii) Minimum processing time,
- (iv) Sampling requirements and release criteria, and
- (v) Operating Protocol.

(2) All requirements of Chapter XV shall be followed,

(3) A single 0-day MSC shellfish meat sample is required. ~~The male-specific coliphage 0-day maximum for depuration is 1000 PFU/100gm. If the 0-day maximum is exceeded, depuration harvesting shall be suspended until the SSCA can investigate. Depuration harvest can continue once shellfish samples have returned to background levels.~~

(4) The MSC end-point requirement for depuration is 50 PFU/100gm. If the single 0-day sample exceeds 50 PFU/100gm, then triplicate samples are required prior to release of product.

(5) The geometric mean of the triplicate samples used for product release must not exceed 50PFU/100gm and no single sample over 100 PFU/100gm;

(6) Extended depuration may be permitted to achieve end-point requirements.

(7) Evaluation of male-specific coliphage samples shall be performed in an NSSP conforming laboratory.