Proposal No. 27-121

Proposal for Task Force Consideration at the ISSC 2027 Biennial Meeting *(Tab to go to next field)*	1. a. ☒ Growing Area b. ☐ Harvesting/Handling/Distribution c. ☐ Administrative
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9. Proposal Subject	Clarification of re-opening criteria following emergency closure due to discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage
10. Specific NSSP Guide Reference	Section II, Chapter IV, @.03 A. (5) (d) (iv)
11. Text of Proposal/ Requested Action	(iv)For emergency closures of harvest areas caused by the occurrence of raw untreated sewage or partially treated sewage discharged from a sewage collection system or WWSD: a. Shellfish samples collected no sooner than seven (7) days after contamination has ceased and from representative locations in each growing area potentially impacted may be tested for MSC. The MSC analytical sample results in shellfish shall not exceed ~~1.~~ MSC levels established in Chapter IV @.02 E (4) or 1. 2. Pre-determined MSC levels in shellfish established by the Authority based on studies conducted on regional species under regional conditions; ~~from shellfish samples collected no sooner than seven (7) days after contamination has ceased and from representative locations in each growing area potentially impacted~~ or ~~a.~~b. Until the event is over and twenty-one (21) days have passed; or
12. Public Health Significance	The proposed change clarifies that a growing area impacted by raw, untreated or partially treated sewage must be closed a minimum of 7 days prior to MSC testing whether the MSC standard of fifty (50) MSC per hundred (100) grams is used to re-open or a return to pre-determined baseline MSC levels in shellfish. As written in the 2023 MO, it can be interpreted that the 7-day closure only applies if the Authority is using pre-determined baseline MSC levels in shellfish as the standard for re-opening, and that if the Authority is using the MSC standard of 50 PFU/100 g shellfish for re-opening then shellfish could be tested on day 2 or 3 following an untreated sewage discharge and the growing area returned to the open status sooner than 7 days if results do not exceed 50 PFU/100 g. It is believed that the intent of the conference was for the 7-day closure to apply regardless of the MSC level used as the re-opening standard. This is supported by the following language in Guidance (p.312): "The regulatory level of 50 PFU/100 g is a conservative value used for re-opening approved growing areas (after 7 days) after a sewage spill…" AND in Section VIII FDA Manual of Interpretations (p.486): "under emergency conditions…such as a raw sewage discharge from an extreme event, and the SSCA closes the growing area as a result, reopening samples (such

	as assessing the levels of Male Specific Coliphage (MSC) in shellfish meats no sooner than seven (7) days after the event)". The proposed change moves the language "shellfish samples collected no sooner than seven (7) days after contamination has ceased and from representative locations in each growing area potentially impacted" before the two options for MSC levels in shellfish and both options for MSC levels become sub bullets under bullet a. The default 21-day closure option becomes bullet b.
13. Cost Information	No additional costs are associated with the proposed changes.
14. Changes Needed to Guidance (if proposed change is adopted)	No changes to Guidance would be required.