

**ISSC 2013 Biennial Meeting  
January 25 – January 31, 2014 – San Antonio, Texas  
Committee Report**

**Committee Name :** Growing Area Classification  
**Chairperson:** Patti Fowler  
**Date of Meeting:** January 26, 2014      **Approved By:** Patti Fowler  
**Recorder:**

**Committee Members Present:**

Patti Fowler	Jim Bloom	Kathy Brohawn
Kristin DeRosia-Banick	Bruce Friedman	Dominic Guadagnoli
Tom Howell	Shannon Jenkins	Kohl Kanwit
Jeff Kennedy	Mike Pearson	Chris Roberts
Angela Ruple	Kirk Wiles	John Veazey
Julie Anbarchian	Joel Hannsel	Gregory Gobllick
William Burkhardt		

**Committee Members Absent:**

Steve Fleetwood	Johnny Halili	Rachel Hartnell
Joanne Leger	Bob Rheault	Debbie Rouse
Bob Woolrich	Paul Comar	

---

**Charges**

**Charge 1: 11-100: Post Harvest Processing**

**Findings:**

The submitter was not present to discuss and provide additional information on this proposal. The regulatory representative from Maine on the Growing Area Classification Committee stated that the State no longer supports this proposal.

**Conclusions:**

Without additional clarification, the Committee could not determine what other verifiable processes were intended to be added to a restricted classification. It was unclear what other types of processes were considered for this proposal in addition to those currently accepted under the restricted classification (relaying, depuration, or low acid-canned food processing).

**Recommendations:**

Recommend No Action on Proposal 11-100. Rationale: No details were provided to determine what other verifiable processes that could be used and added to the restricted classification.

**Charge 2: 11-101: Re-Opening Conditional Areas Using Male-Specific Coliphage after WTP Malfunction**

**Findings:**

The committee discussed 11-101, 11-102, and 11-103 together. Currently in the NSSP the use of MSC is limited to analysis on oysters following a major spill of raw untreated sewage from a large sewage collection system or wastewater treatment plant. The committee suggests that there may be

other valid uses for MSC in the Program. However, the science behind any other uses is not fully understood or available by and to the committee. The submitter suggested that the three proposals were more like "place holders" to allow the Conference to take a bigger look at MSC and where it could be a usefull tool in the NSSP. There are many questions about the validity of using MSC as an indicator for Noro viruses.

**Conclusions:**

There needs to be a forum, such as a summit meeting, to bring together outside experts from academia, scientists, etc. to present the current science behind the use of MSC and the appropriate use of MSC in the NSSP . There needs to be a review and report on where MSC is applicable in the NSSP and determine that the science supports additional uses.

**Recommendations:**

The Growing Area Classification Committee reccommends referral of Proposal 11-101, 11-102, and 11-103 to the appropriate committee as determined by the Conference Chairman. It is additionally recommended that a workgroup be formed to look at current MSC data and the science behind its potential use and applicability for use in the NSSP. The workgroup will organize a summit of outside experts, academia, and scientists to present current information and science on MSC. The group will meet at least quarterly and respond back to the growing area committee on its findings and recommendations.

The Growing Area Committee recommends that the ISSC persue funding to facilitate scheduling a summit to bring together experts to present the current science in the use of MSC.

**Charge 3: 11-102: Using Male-specific Coliphage as a Tool to Refine Determinations of the Size of the Areas to be Classified as Prohibited Adjacent to Each Outfall**

**Findings:**

The committee discussed 11-101, 11-102, and 11-103 together. Currently in the NSSP the use of MSC is limited to analysis on oysters following a major spill of raw untreated sewage from a large sewage collection system or wastewater treatment plant. The committee suggests that there may be other valid uses for MSC in the Program. However, the science behind any other uses is not fully understood or available by and to the committee. The submitter suggested that the three proposals were more like "place holders" to allow the Conference to take a bigger look at MSC and where it could be a usefull tool in the NSSP. There are many questions about the validity of using MSC as an indicator for Noro viruses.

**Conclusions:**

There needs to be a forum, such as a summit meeting, to bring together outside experts from academia, scientists, etc. to present the current science behind the use of MSC and the appropriate use of MSC in the NSSP . There needs to be a review and report on where MSC is applicable in the NSSP and determine that the science supports additional uses.

**Recommendations:**

The Growing Area Classification Committee reccommends referral of Proposal 11-101, 11-102, and 11-103 to the appropriate committee as determined by the Conference Chairman. It is additionally recommended that a workgroup be formed to look at current MSC data and the science behind its potential use and applicability for use in the NSSP. The workgroup will organize a summit of outside experts, academia, and scientists to present current information and science on MSC. The group will meet at least quarterly and respond back to the growing area committee on its findings and recommendations.

The Growing Area Committee recommends that the ISSC persue funding to facilitate scheduling a summit to bring together experts to present the current science in the use of MSC.

#### **Charge 4: 11-103: Alternative Male-specific Coliphage Meat Standard for Restricted Classification of Growing Areas Impacted by wastewater treatment plant outfall**

##### **Findings:**

The committee discussed 11-101, 11-102, and 11-103 together. Currently in the NSSP the use of MSC is limited to analysis on oysters following a major spill of raw untreated sewage from a large sewage collection system or wastewater treatment plant. The committee suggests that there may be other valid uses for MSC in the Program. However, the science behind any other uses is not fully understood or available by and to the committee. The submitter suggested that the three proposals were more like "place holders" to allow the Conference to take a bigger look at MSC and where it could be a useful tool in the NSSP. There are many questions about the validity of using MSC as an indicator for Noro viruses.

##### **Conclusions:**

There needs to be a forum, such as a summit meeting, to bring together outside experts from academia, scientists, etc. to present the current science behind the use of MSC and the appropriate use of MSC in the NSSP. There needs to be a review and report on where MSC is applicable in the NSSP and determine that the science supports additional uses.

##### **Recommendations:**

The Growing Area Classification Committee recommends referral of Proposal 11-101, 11-102, and 11-103 to the appropriate committee as determined by the Conference Chairman. It is additionally recommended that a workgroup be formed to look at current MSC data and the science behind its potential use and applicability for use in the NSSP. The workgroup will organize a summit of outside experts, academia, and scientists to present current information and science on MSC. The group will meet at least quarterly and respond back to the growing area committee on its findings and recommendations.

The Growing Area Committee recommends that the ISSC pursue funding to facilitate scheduling a summit to bring together experts to present the current science in the use of MSC.

#### **Charge 5: 11-115: Addition to the Requirements for the Authority during a suspected shellfish related outbreak**

##### **Findings:**

The committee had concerns regarding the lack of detail related to what processes could be considered for reconditioning recalled product. As written, the proposal is too broad. There are some PHP options that are validated for the use of reducing vibrio. What other options for other pathogens are available? The committee also had concerns about chain of custody once product released for reconditioning and how to assure that reconditioning occurs and if processes are validated. If recalled from retail, handling outside of the NSSP control may result in exposure of the product to different pathogens of concern and would be unknown.

##### **Conclusions:**

More details are needed on what validated processing options are available and what pathogens are being considered under this proposal. More details are needed for assuring that product is actually reconditioned.

##### **Recommendations:**

The Growing Area Classification Committee recommends referral of Proposal 11-115 to the appropriate committee as determined by the Conference Chair and that a work group be formed to further explore available options for PHP methods that could be used for reconditioning recalled product. The workgroup should determine a definition for "validated reconditioned process". The

Committee further recommends that the work group report back to the Growing Area Classification Committee with its findings.