

ISSC

From: ISSC
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 9:23 AM
To: ' (issc@issc.org) '
Subject: Washington Closure and Recall

The following information was provided to ISSC late yesterday regarding a Norovirus illness outbreak:

On 11/21 Washington State Department of Health (DOH) received a report of 6 Norovirus-like illnesses (two confirmed Norovirus) from Oregon. The event had about 100 attendees with about half eating oysters harvested from Hood Canal 5 and Hammersley Inlet. At that time we were unable to determine whether or not oysters were the likely cause of the illnesses because a) only 10% of event attendees were interviewed, b) hand washing facilities were inadequate so an ill food worker (none was identified) could have contaminated foods served at the event, c) it was a crowded event so we could not rule out person-to-person spread of the virus. On 12/2 (DOH) received a report of a Norovirus-like illness from King County in Washington State. The individual ate oysters from Hood Canal 5 and Hammersley Inlet with the same shellfish dealer as the Oregon report, but with harvest dates a few weeks later. On 12/3 we learned of two additional potential cases, one reported by King County of an individual with a Norovirus-like illness that ate oysters harvested from Hammersley Inlet. The other illness report came from the shellfish dealer involved in these cases and is potentially a party of three that became ill after eating oysters harvested from Hammersley Inlet. On 12/4 we received an additional report of Norovirus-like illnesses from a festival in Seattle on 11/21. Oysters from Hammersley Inlet were served at the event.

State actions are as follows:

- All companies involved have been inspected with no apparent issues found, however, an abbreviated shoreline survey of the area was conducted that did discover a failing septic system which could potentially be the source of illnesses
- A portion of the southern shoreline of the Hammersley Inlet Shellfish Growing Area, from SE Mell Road east to Skookum Point was implicated in multiple reports of oyster-associated Norovirus-like illnesses and therefore closed until further notice on December 5th, 2014 at 1 pm
- A recall was initiated on December 5th, 2014 involving three Washington companies; JDK Shellfish WA 1285-SS, South Sound Mariculture LLC, DBA TLCZ WA 1500-SS and Hama Hama WA 0259-SP. Potential receiving states include: Oregon, Nevada, Florida, Minnesota, Illinois, California, New York, Maine, Georgia, and internationally Canada and Hong Kong.
- Product dates for the recall of all species molluscan shellfish from the closed area noted above are November 10th to December 5th, 2014
- As a precaution the recall has been expanded to additional companies (which have been notified) in the growing area, we will include that information as we continue to notify receiving states

Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference
209-2 Dawson Road
Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: 803-788-7559

Fax: 803-788-7576

Email: issc@issc.org