

Minutes

A meeting of the ISSC Executive Board was held virtually.

I. Attendance

Board Members Present

Michael Bott	Chair
Shannon Jenkins	Vice Chair
Keith Skiles	Executive Director
Eric Hickey	Region 1 Regulatory
Lori Howell	Region 1 Industry
Debra Barnes	Region 2 Regulatory
Steve Fleetwood	Region 2 Industry
Danielle Schools	Region 3 Regulatory
Gary Hill	Region 3 Industry
Portia Sapp	Region 4 Regulatory
Erik Broussard	Region 5 Regulatory
Todd Phillips	Region 6 Regulatory
Miranda Ries	Region 6 Industry (alternate)
Bruce Flippens	Non-Producing
Blake Millett	Non-Producing
Jonathan Gerhardt	Non-Producing
Jessica Jones	FDA
Bess Ormond	FDA/ORA
Jon Bell	NOAA
David Fyfe	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Kohl Kanwit	Past Chair
Keith Jackson	Retail Advisory
AJ Erskine	VMC Chair
Kathy Brohawn	Lab Chair

Board Members Absent

Barry Hurt	Region 4 Industry
Steve Pollack	Region 5 Industry
Bill Kramer	EPA
Mike Hughes	CDC
Kim Stryker	

II. New Board Member Acknowledgement

Jessica Jones and Bess Ormond will serve as the new board members representing the FDA.

III. Minutes

Requested edits to the submitted minutes will be sent to the executive office, who will compile them and send them back out the board for email approval by April 30th, 2025.

IV. Introductory Comments

The chair thanks everyone for participating in the meeting, and requests that cameras be turned on when speaking whenever possible.

FDA

The FDA is glad to be able to participate in the meeting, and acknowledges that there have been multiple departures in the shellfish department. Travel is currently restricted, as is spending. Courses offered through OTED have been moved to virtual settings. GARB and VARB trainings are still operational, though technical support is currently limited.

The FDA has received approval to resume ISSC committee work and engage with the executive board. They are also moving forward with state collections for PFAS sampling.

NOAA

Steve Wilson has retired at NOAA and Jon Bell is now the acting director.

The seafood inspection program has been deemed as having mission critical travel and is continuing.

V. Regional Updates

NWIFC

The 2025 PACRIM Conference was recently held in Anchorage, and had more than forty participants.

Non-Producing

No update given.

Region Six Regulatory

Representatives attended the PACRIM conference and had productive discussions.

California and Washington are both dealing with rulemaking, and both states have comment periods that end April 15th, 2025.

This winter multiple pacific region states have dealt with norovirus.

Region Six Industry

Industry is focused on impacts of potential tariffs, as well as dealing with soft markets.

Washington was recently successful in adopting the 2023 Model Ordinance. The state also has several rules still in progress, including a fee revision that was suggested by the Department of Health. The results are expected to be due to legislators by June 30th, 2025.

Overall the industries perspective is making sure that rules are enforceable, and not inhibiting interstate relationships.

Region 5 Regulatory

Most public seasons are closed in region five.

The state of Mississippi is working to open its private leasing program.

Region 4 Regulatory

The GSASSC is being planned for June 3rd, 2025 to June 5th, 2025, in Gainesville Florida. Anyone who is interested in attending should respond by email by the end of the week.

The FWC is holding virtual and in person meetings to discuss the wild harvest in Florida.

Region 4 Industry

Industry is encountering problems in the North Carolina area with oyster deaths.

Florida's industry is being impacted by last year's hurricanes.

Region 3 Regulatory

The VMRC recently hired a deputy commissioner. The VDH has experienced several federal grant cuts that have impacted the agency as a whole. They also have a hiring freeze in place.

Virginia is currently pursuing adoption of the 2023 model ordinance.

Delaware would like it brought to the board's attention that in chapters ten and eleven of the model ordinance there is no assigned code for many of those items.

Region 3 Industry

Industry is currently experiencing a soft market and downward trending demand.

Region 2 Regulatory

New York recently hosted the 2025 NESSA meeting, with participants from across the region.

Maine will be hosting the 2026 NESSA meeting and is beginning preparations.

New Jersey's Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring is preparing to move their facilities next year.

New Jersey was also associated with a PSP case last year that state challenged due to lack of scientific evidence to support the claim. They are currently awaiting response from the FDA to their letter.

Connecticut has raised the issue of whether it would be worthwhile for the ISSC to consider forming a committee to review illness cases where they attributed to states by other states.

Region Two Industry

Industry is dealing with a soft market.

Region One Regulatory

Departments in New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island have undergone personnel changes.

In Massachusetts the Food Protection Program has recently been renamed the Division of Food Protection. Massachusetts is currently finalizing their 2025 Vibrio control plan.

Region One Industry

Industry is concerned with potential tariffs, as well as tourism being down.

VI. Program Chairman's Report

ISSC Biennial Meeting

The 2025 ISSC Biennial meeting has recently been postponed, leaving questions about the timeframe and possible relocation for the rescheduled meeting.

A motion was made to form a work group to submit a proposal for recommended dates for the rescheduled biennial meeting. The motion was seconded and a friendly amendment was made to specify the workgroup should have participants from both industry and state. The amendment was accepted by the original proposer and the second. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

AFDO has been contacted about the possibility of using funding for either a new

biennial meeting, and they hope to respond by the end of the week.

Fall Executive Board Meeting

The Question was raised whether to have the fall executive board meeting virtually or in person.

The executive office would need two months notice to plan an in person board meeting, meaning that the board has time to ponder the issue. The executive office will reach back out at a later date to determine how people are feeling about an in person or virtual meeting.

Grants

The ISSC is currently operating off of the existing grant award, and is due to submit the reapplication by the end of the month.

The executive office has submitted a letter of intent to apply for the small conference grant.

The awards for the milk and shellfish cooperative agreement have been issued. The current year's funding has been reduced by approximately 60% compared to previous years.

2025 Budget

The 2025 budget was presented to the board.

A motion was made to approve the ISSC FY 2025 operating budget, including on correction to remove a duplicate charge. The motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

VII. Committee Reports

Audit Committee

The audit committee met late December with Scott and Company to review their report. While there were no concerns, it was noted that the report was a review of ISSC's financials, rather than a full audit. The committee discussed the possibility of ISSC undergoing a full audit in the name of due diligence.

Members of the board raised concerns of exorbitant costs and the fact that there

were no issues raised by the financial review to warrant a full audit.

The representative of the audit committee agreed to put off their recommendation.

Research Guidance Committee

The research guidance committee passed a motion to support a purge study and recommends that the board fund the project pending additional information Rachel Noble's Lab.

A motion was made that the board support the recommendation to fund the requested study. The motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

Bird Risk Assessment Committee

All recordings from the bird session recently held in New Orleans are available on the ISSC website.

VIII. New Business

FDA Laboratory Operations Update

As of January 2024 there were 10 domestic labs that were current with their evaluations, covering 28 separate scopes of service.

In 2024, the FDA conducted three additional laboratory evaluations covering seven scopes of service.

The FDA was planning to conduct the SSP laboratory methods and evaluations training course for state LEO's and program managers in August of 2025, though this date is no longer certain.

FDA Status of the States

Twenty-one of the the twenty-two plant processing and shipping element evaluations planned for FY24 were completed.

Sixteen states were found in conformance. Four states were found to be in overall nonconformance, including two states that were found in provisional conformance for infield criteria, but had deficiencies in other criteria.

The 2024 evaluation cycle identified sixteen total deficiencies within six states and eighteen new or emerging concerns that they shared with their state partners. They also made twelve recommendations to potentially improve plant processing and shipping programs in seven states. Four states had firms with no incomplete follow-up to observed and reported deficiencies. Seven states are on new or continuing actions plans to address observed deficiencies.

Fifteen control harvest evaluations were scheduled and completed. Ten deficiencies across three states were identified. Eight new or emerging concerns were noted for five states. Fourteen states were in conformance with the model ordinance. One state was in nonconformance.

Thirteen of fourteen growing area evaluations were completed. Sixteen deficiencies were identified across six states. Fifteen new or emerging concerns were identified across five states, and made fourteen recommendations to improve state programs.

Twenty-three states received risk management and assessment evaluations, with three states having deficiencies. Ten states were identified as having new or emerging concerns, and two states each had three new or emerging concerns. Recommendations were made to improve seven state programs.

Training Updates

In FY2024, eighteen states requested training or technical assistance. Eleven states asked for technical assistance, including help with illegal imports and review of VV data.

International Evaluation Update

One foreign evaluation was completed in FY24, the Mexican shellfish sanitation program. Eight deficiencies were identified, and an action plan to address these has been submitted.

IX. Recess

The remaining agenda items were tabled for discussion until the following day.