

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

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