



Vibrio parahaemolyticus (Vp) 2016 Season

Shellfish Industry Control Measures Interim Strategy

The British Columbia Shellfish Industry acknowledges that the final product testing per lot for Vibrio parahaemolyticus (Vp) will insure public safety.

In order to mitigate the risk to public safety and health in the 2016 Vp season* Shellfish Processors agree to the following interim control measures:

1. Shellfish Processors will submit three (3) final product samples per lot for Vp analysis throughout the entire Vp season.
2. Vp Season Start Date of May 1.
3. Vp Season End Date, determined on a plant by plant basis, when the following criteria is met:
 - No sooner than September 15th
 - Two consecutive weeks with no final product test results exceeding Vp 3 MPN

*Shellfish Processors would like to have the option in future Vp seasons to use data collected to validate harvest site/plant specific controls to reduce the need for extensive final product Vp analysis.

Temperature control from Farm to Fork:

- Shellfish Processor will conduct verification of temperature controls through the supply chain (starting from harvest) using temperature data loggers or equivalent devices.
- Shellfish Industry will educate the shellfish industry on Vp controls.
- Shellfish Industry strongly recommends that relevant regulatory bodies and association's will provide educational programs for all entities handling product after it leaves processing facilities.

Data availability & transparency:

- *Industry requests that regulators monitor and enforce the requirement that only federally registered facilities process shellfish.*
- *Industry recommends that traceability be improved post processing to consumer level.*
- *Industry would like to participate in providing more information to assist regulators in conducting investigations and risk assessments.*
- *Industry requests that funding be made available to conduct research into understanding and reduction of Vp illnesses and risks. Once information is available best management practices can be developed to further manage risks.*