

VpAC Vibrio Rule Development Meeting

March 20, 2013

Attendees

In person: Adam James, Austin Docter, Bill Dewey, Brandy Brush, Dave Nisbet, David Fyfe, Jesse Deloach, Kathleen Nisbet, Ken Weigardt, Margaret Barrette, Miranda Ries, Randy Hatch, Scott Grout, Steve Bloomfield, Tom Boomfield, Jacob Moore.

Via tele-conference: Brian Sheldon, Cindy Gray, Jason Ragan, Lisa Bishop.

Purpose

The purpose of the Vibrio parahaemolyticus Advisory Committee (VpAC) is to work with the Department of Health to provide recommendations for consideration in future rule making regarding the Vibrio control plan set forth in WAC 246-282-006. The Department of Health will draft rule language that will be provided to the State Board of Health for review. The State Board of Health has the responsibility of approving any changes or modifications to the WAC, which may or may not include recommendations put forth by the committee.

Meeting Notes

Procedural:

- Reviewed working agreements
- No submittal forms received
- No new subcommittees formed
- Request to look into WebEx audio connection capability
- Consider how to continue dialogue over summer months (between May and October meetings)

Environmental Triggers:

- Weather:
 - o Hot weather + low tide play a role
 - o Air temperature + presence of sunshine, a hot cloudy day is different from a hot sunny day (sun warms the oysters more than air temp)
- Water:
 - o Water temperature (cease harvest when water temperature reaches 65°)
 - o pH balance and salinity in the canal (low pH and high salinity bad, this may be a bad Vp year given low rainfall this winter)
- Physical characteristics:
 - o Bed elevation
 - o Water depth (cool channel water vs. warm water across flats)
 - Does depth work for BC industry? Have deep water storage
 - o Substrate composition (potential for warming and harboring bacteria)
- Tides:
 - o Tides later in the day are problematic (on sunny, hot days)
 - o Big low tides in the middle of the day allow Vp to incubate in oysters
 - Regional differences, a low early morning tide in Willapa is a low mid-day tide in the canal

- Substrate and bed elevation matter (oysters will be much warmer after an incoming mid-day tide if it is a shallow mud bed than that same tide in the morning before the water and mud warm)
- Other triggers discussed (non-environmental):
 - Harvest methods and practices
 - Wet storage practices, depth, duration, location, flow speed, temperature control
 - Need purging studies to validate > develop best practices
 - Bagged/tightly packed oysters may not purge
 - Dr. Su's research shows purging, lab study may not be commercially replicable, stains used may not be comparable to our environmental strains
 - Develop dashboard controls (pH, DO, etc.) for wet storage
 - Need more DOH staff time towards enforcement, spot inspections
 - Ability to move product to less risky locations
- Need to address what are the triggers for when risk is elevated and what are the controls you can use to reduce risk?
 - Example: if you are identified as being in a growing area with elevated risk and 3 of x factors apply, than suspend harvest until conditions change
 - Risk assessment > best management practices for high risk areas

Risk Assessment Subcommittee Update:

- Developed a landings reporting letter and outline, requested feedback from committee, little given
 - Support at March committee meeting, move to issue letter with committee member companies as signatories
 - Reviewed why SSs and SPs are supplying data (HAs must sell to an SS or SP, smaller group to deal with, limit double counting)
 - Clarifications requested:
 - Reiterate outline is to assist in compiling data, not to submit to DOH
 - Use symbols "<" and ">" rather than "greater than" and "less than"
 - Add call-in info to outline

Subcommittees:

- Risk Assessment:
 - Meeting 4/4 at 5pm after PacRim, all committee members welcome
- Environmental Sampling:
 - Revisit specific sites in growing areas, confirm these are the sites to use

Next Steps:

- Email:
 - Revised landings reporting letter and outline
 - Meeting minutes
- Committee to reply by 3/21 to have name affixed to landings reporting letter
- DOH to look into WebEx audio connection options
- Research ideas:
 - BC illness association with deep water
 - More tidal data (2011 Samish, other areas by request)
 - Substrate types and bed elevations

- Using a 65° water temperature trigger, how many days would a growing area be closed vs. current plan (and potential illnesses prevented)