



Vp Risk Assessment Subcommittee Meeting March 6, 2013

Attendees

In Person: Austin Docter, Bill Dewey, Brandy Brush, Cari Franz-West, Darrell Moudry, Dave Steele, Jesse DeLoach, Ken Weigardt, Laura Wigand, Mat Bulldis, Miranda Ries, Richard Lillie, Tom Bloomfield

Via tele-Conference: none

Purpose

The Risk Assessment Subcommittee met to address the following issues:

1. Develop reporting outline and instructions
2. Set a deadline for reporting and develop message for the industry
3. Prioritize other issues raised by the committee

Meeting Notes

General comments/questions on DOH Risk Assessment PowerPoint presentation:

- Need to provide size ranges for categories, no set industry standard, for example should specialty count as x-small or small?
- How would sub-areas within growing areas exist if landings are collected by growing area?
 - o Can identify by illness reports, ex. if all illnesses in Totten are by harvesters out of Gallagher's Cove, could limit to that sub-area
- Need both illnesses and harvest data to have a clear picture of risk and identify higher risk areas
- Recent advances in lab testing support this approach, strains change over space and time

Data submission and proofing:

- Put in rule, no submission no harvest in Vp months
- Need ramifications for junk data/statutory requirement with penalties
 - o Start exploring RCW now
 - o Need a penalty or there won't be compliance
- Voluntary ok place to start, but not enough for long term
- Can proof the data by:
 - o Compare (roughly) against DFW data
 - o Spot check data during inspections
 - o Random audits
- Spot checking takes time and staff, not currently set up
- To audit would need to track by harvester, form not set up to track by harvester
- Voluntary is good to start, better to have a little good data that will increase our knowledge than a lot of junk data
 - o Get 80% participation by growing area enough to work off of

Who to collect data from:

- Focus on processors (SS and SH) not harvesters (HA)
- Processors know the life of the product (ex. destined for shucked, shellstock, PHP etc)
- Focus efforts on subcommittee, then full committee, then reach out to industry
 - o Aim to get everyone in the committee to participate, and encourage others

- Good faith effort this season from the industry, see how the season goes, may incentivize others to participate
- SS and SP report what they sell from their farm or another harvester, not what they buy from another SS or SP
 - Don't collect data from harvesters or double count data for sales between dealers
- Send request industry wide, commit as a group to submit data and talk to industry/use existing relationships to gain wider participation

Define sizes to collect landings data on:

- Submit total oysters if size is not tracked, submit by size and total if tracked
 - Estimate size quantities where possible, focusing on the total number being accurate (size being helpful, not required)
- Oysters by size when possible, where:
 - X-small: 3" and smaller
 - Small: greater than 3" and less than 4"
 - Medium: greater than 4" and less than 5"
 - Large and jumbo: greater than 5"
- Can use size info to link risk by size if size is also collected on the illness side

Revisions to Oyster Landing Data outline:

- Clarify size is helpful, can be estimated if not precisely known, and is not required
- Clarify that shucked meat should not be included
- Clarify that reporting should "include oysters from your farm or purchased from another harvester, not oysters purchased from another shellstock shipper or shipper packer" to prevent double counting of production
- Add size ranges (see above) as an approximate guide on sizes
- Add a paragraph on why this data is being collected and how it will be used

Process for this summer/interim study:

- Need 80% participation in data submission for a growing area
 - Can check off SH and SS as they report to Holly
 - Focus outreach to SS and SP in bays we want to focus on
- DOH max capacity about 25 growing areas (more than 30 growing areas have Vp cases)
- Two approaches:
 - Solicit from all growing areas
 - Select growing areas to participate in the pilot, target landings reporting
- By harvester vs. growing area:
 - Currently a lot of red tape judicially in pursuing civil penalties
 - Would move the perceived 'risk' and the blame from the water to the harvester
- Closure requirement?
 - To be determined, initial focus of risk assessment to guide how areas are being managed and sampled
 - Help harvesters know when/where they should move product in summer months and where to focus DOH environmental sampling
 - Understand where the 'problem areas' are really located, current assumptions based on total illnesses, not informative without landings data

- Can use to outright close areas or harvesters for summer harvest or create a ratcheting down approach to management, increasing controls based on risk levels
- Multi sources: don't count against growing areas with no historical illness association, divide illness between remaining areas
- Could also focus on only a few growing areas, ex. Totten Inlet
- Start June 1
- Take idea of summer study to committee, solicit suggestions but return to subcommittee to work out details

Decisions:

- Richard and Bill will create a letter (letter reviewed by subcommittee > letter reviewed by full committee > letter sent to industry > landings reported)
 - Subcommittee will supply data, hope full committee will, subcommittee will campaign within the industry for broader participation
 - Need March committee meeting to agree with collection (if a lot of resistance via email communications/Survey Monkey responses over the letter) so request can be sent out in time for data crunching
- Next subcommittee meeting focus on what will be included this summer/how the risk assessment will be used to guide Vp management
 - Want suggestions from committee at the March meeting, but not ready to fully discuss this summer's plans until the April meeting

Next Steps:

- Develop a letter to the industry:
 - Richard and Bill: due 3/8 to the subcommittee
 - Subcommittee: comments due 3/12 to Richard and Bill
 - Committee: comments due on Survey Monkey by 3/15
 - Letter issued and industry data submission due by 4/19
 - Send a reminder to the industry two weeks before deadline
- Develop Survey Monkey pool for letter feedback: Miranda and Laura
- DOH to:
 - Train Holly on likely questions during call ins
 - Revise Holly's voicemail message to state it is the correct number for reporting landings data
 - Send out doodle/meeting reminder for next subcommittee meeting: 5pm 4/3 after PacRim