



**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
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**HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

**Evaluation of the Emergency Rule**  
***Vibrio parahaemolyticus* 2007 Control Plan**

**Washington State Board of Health**  
**November 14, 2007**

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## Background *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp)

- Naturally occurring
- Can cause vibriosis
- National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance regulates shellfish



## **Vp Outbreak Overview**

**May – August 2006**

- 300 Illnesses
- 2 Recalls
- 114,690 dozen oysters sold during these two periods
- 23 states and 8 foreign countries affected by recalls

# Emergency Rule 2007

## Vp Control Plan Elements

- Effective June – September 2007
- Covered the harvest and shipment of oysters intended for raw consumption
- Identified impacted growing areas
- Allowed for climatic differences between Puget Sound and Coastal growing areas
- Provided more restrictive time-to-temperature controls
- Improved sampling protocols

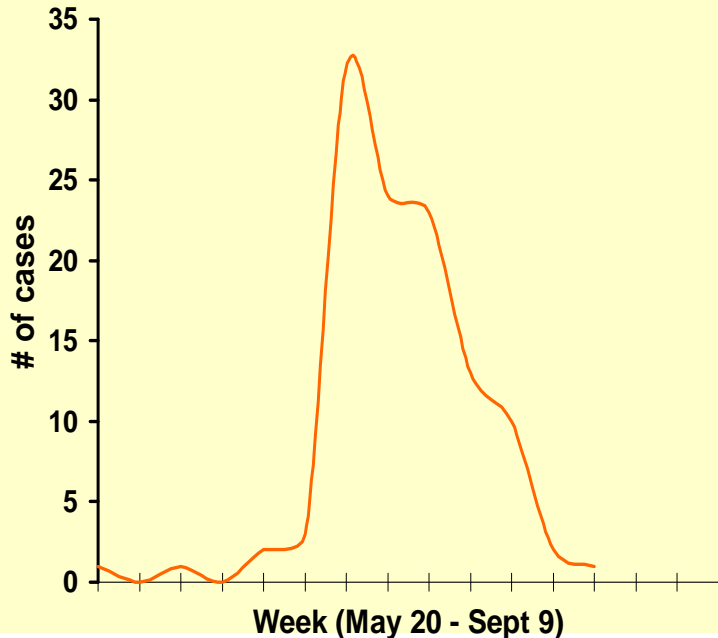
## The 2007 *Vibrio* Season

- 25 growing areas sampled for *Vibrio*
- Collected extensive data on temperatures, tides, and weather conditions
- Collected samples as close to time of maximum air exposure as possible
- Used consistent sampling methods

# Illnesses: 2006 vs. 2007\*

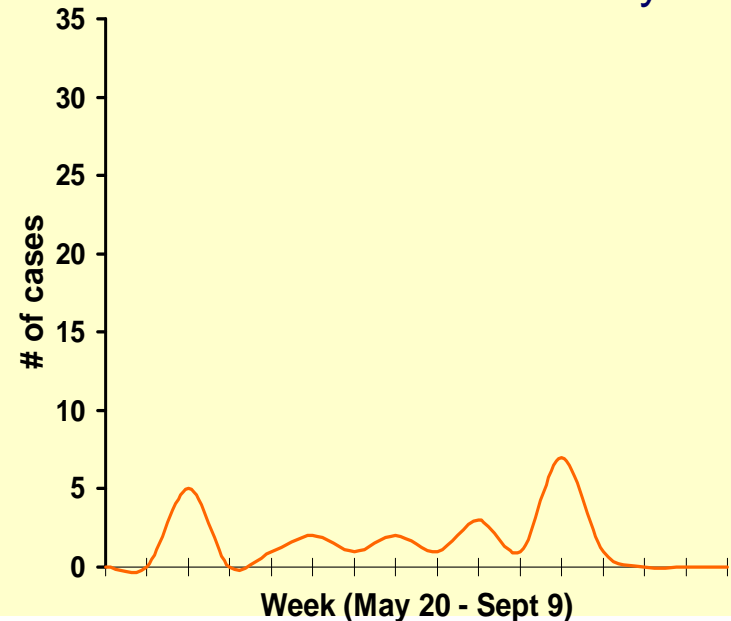
## 2006

- Record hot, sunny weather
- Record lack of rain
- Low afternoon tides
- Record number of illnesses



## 2007

- Temperatures return to normal
- Less direct sun, more rain
- Less harvest for raw consumption
- Immediate harvest controls when pathogenic *Vibrio* is detected
- Harvest site surveillance by DOH



\* Washington Vp cases only - does not include cases from other states associated with WA product.

## Vibriosis Related to Washington Oysters May – August 2007

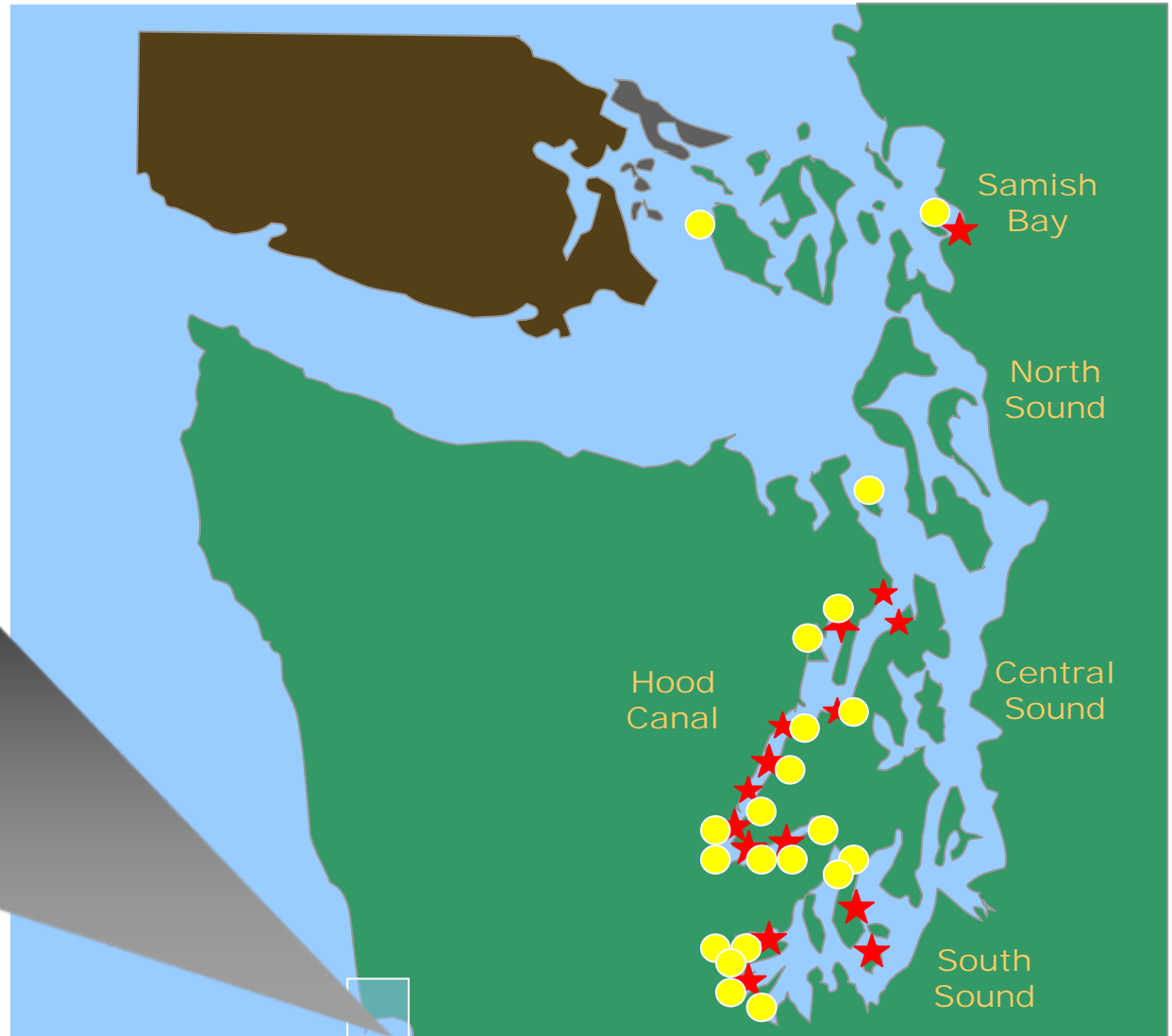
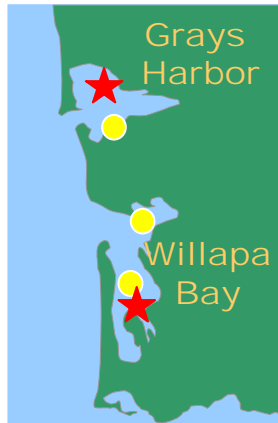
	<u>Cases</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Washington residents	36	64%
Washington visitors	1	2%
Other states *	17	30%
Canada	<u>2</u>	<u>4%</u>
Total known cases	56	100%

\* AK, CA, CT, GA, NY, NV, OR, UT

# 2007 Outbreak

## Areas Monitored vs. Confirmed Cases

- = 24 initial *Vp* monitoring sites
- ★ = 17 growing areas with confirmed *Vp* cases



## **Vibriosis Related to Washington Oysters May – August 2007**

- Majority of Washington cases were single cases (not clusters)
- 10.5% of the cases resulted from recreational harvesting (2006 = 25%)
- Two outbreaks
- Majority of cases (>80%) from Hood Canal

## **Vp Recalls**

### **May – August 2007**

- **3 Recalls**
  - ✓ May 31 – June 5, Totten Inlet (Voluntary)
  - ✓ July 3 – August 3, Hood Canal 6
  - ✓ August 1 – August 21, Hood Canal 5
- 49,832 dozen oysters and 466 gallons of shucked meats sold during these three periods
- 20 states and 6 foreign countries affected by recalls

## 2007 Data Analysis

- FDA Visit
  - ✓ October 1 – 5: FDA scientists from the Gulf Coast Seafood Laboratory and FDA Headquarters visited growing areas and dealers, examined 2006 data
- DOH currently conducting analysis for 2006 and 2007 environmental and illness data
- NOAA studying plankton and water data from 2007

## Growing Areas with Single-Source\* *Vp* Illnesses

Growing Area	Cases	Maximum <i>tdh</i> Level**
Hood Canal 6	12	<0.03
Port Orchard	1	NA
Hood Canal 3	2	0.036
Hood Canal 7	1	0.092
Grays Harbor	1	0.036
Hood Canal 5	7	0.15
Samish Bay	1	<0.03
Quilcene Bay	1	0.43

\*Those that became ill ate oysters harvested from one growing area (source) only.

\*\* Current maximum *tdh* level is 5

## Growing Areas with Multiple-Source\* *Vp* Illnesses

- 20 Washington growing areas were associated with *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* illnesses in 2007
- Growing areas in Alaska, Massachusetts, Maine, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Canada were associated with *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* illnesses in 2007

\* Those that became ill ate oysters harvested from more than one growing area (source).

## Vp Illnesses – Lessons Learned

- Constant changes between 5 hours and 10 hours to temperature control unwieldy
- Regulating by *tdh* levels ineffective due to time lag between sampling and test results
- May need to treat Hood Canal separately from both Puget Sound and Coastal regions

## Vibrio Rule Process Timeline

October	File CR-101, initial stakeholder meeting, form advisory committee
November – December	Advisory committee meetings; gather input from industry members; develop preliminary draft rule
January	Industry workshops
March	Brief State Board of Health
April	File proposed rule/ gather public comment
May	State Board of Health hearing (target May 14, 2008)
June 1, 2008	Rule effective

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