

Conference for Food Protection – Committee Periodic Status Report

Template approved by the Executive Board May 2014

Committee Periodic Status Reports are considered DRAFT until reviewed and acknowledged by the Executive Board

COMMITTEE NAME: Oyster Committee

COUNCIL or EXECUTIVE BOARD ASSIGNMENT: Council I (established by extracted issue 2014-I-025)

DATE OF REPORT: March 6, 2015

SUBMITTED BY: Lisa Staley, Committee Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBER ROSTER:

See attached roster for updated member listing and Executive Board approval (pending e-vote initiated 3/10/15; will require update to position status of Thomas McMahan)

COMMITTEE CHARGE(s):

1. Develop recommendations to update section 3-603.11 *Consumer Advisory* regarding raw mulluscan shellfish that have not been treated by a process sufficient to reduce *Vibrio* spp. to an undetectable level, as detected by the *Vibrio vulnificus* testing method in the most current edition of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Bacteriological Analytical Manual.
2. Report back to the 2016 Conference for Food Protection Biennial meeting on the committee's work and submit an issue amending the FDA Food Code as recommended by the committee.

COMMITTEE'S REQUESTED ACTION FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD (If Applicable):

PROGRESS REPORT / COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES WITH ACTIVITY DATES:

1. Progress on Overall Committee Activities

The Oyster Advisory Committee conducted three phone conferences since the committee was formed (December 9, 2014, January 13, 2015, and February 26, 2015.) The calls consisted of discussion of the issue and to identify whether or not the current advisory language in the 2013 FDA Food Code was sufficient to meet its charge. During the January call Erin Butler from Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene was a guest on the call. Ms. Butler provided the committee information regarding *Vibrio* illnesses. At the conclusion of the January call an email was sent out to the committee to compare the proposed language from the Council I issue, I – 25 to what is written in the FDA Food Code and whether there was a need to further discuss the issue. The results were sent to all committee members and reviewed during the February call. During the February call it was decided by the committee to have a vote on whether the issue was going to be discussed further. After the vote the committee feels that the current language in 3-603.11 of the 2013 FDA Food Code was sufficient to meet their charge and no changes to the FDA Food Code Consumer Advisory language was needed. However, the committee does feel that the consumer should be aware of the public health concerns when consuming raw oysters, and would like to make a recommendation to the Conference to explore different educational routes such as brochures, to be available to regulators, industry, and consumers to discuss the public health concerns of consuming raw oysters especially if the consumer has severe health concerns such as, cancer, diabetes, liver disease, etc.

Lastly, Thomas McMahan, retail industry member from Meijer, was nominated and approved by the CFP Executive Board to co-chair the Oyster Committee which replaces Sandra Eskin, previous co-chair who was unable to continue serving.

2. Progress Addressing each Assigned Committee Charge

Charge #1: The committee feels that the current language in the 2013 FDA Food Code was sufficient to meet their charge and that no further discussions were needed. However, we do feel that the consumer should be aware of the health concerns when consuming raw oysters, and would like to make a recommendation to the Conference to explore different educational routes such as brochures, to be available to regulators, industry, and consumers to discuss the health concerns of consuming raw oysters especially if the consumer has severe health concerns such as, cancer, diabetes, liver disease, etc. In conclusion the committee feels that the charge assigned. **CHARGE #1 IN PROGRESS.**