



2023 ISSC Updates

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Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture
2023 Harvester Meeting

CT Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT

https://www.fda.gov/food/federalstate-food-programs/national-shellfish-sanitation-program-nssp

National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP)

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The National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) is the federal/state cooperative program recognized by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) for the sanitary control of shellfish produced and sold for human consumption. The purpose of the NSSP is to promote and improve the sanitation of shellfish (oysters, clams, mussels and scallops) moving in interstate commerce through federal/state cooperation and uniformity of State shellfish programs. Participants in the NSSP include agencies from shellfish producing and non-producing States, FDA, EPA, NOAA, and the shellfish industry. Under international agreements with FDA, foreign governments also participate in the NSSP. Other components of the NSSP include program guidelines, State growing area classification and dealer certification programs, and FDA evaluation of State program elements.

Content current as of:
10/29/2020

Regulated Product(s)
Food & Beverages

- [NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish: 2019 Revision \(PDF 4.5 MB\)](#)
- [NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish: 2017 Revision \(PDF 4.8 MB\)](#)
- [NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish: 2015 Revision \(PDF 5.9 MB\)](#)
- [NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish: 2013 Revision \(PDF 5.1 MB\)](#)
- [NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish: 2011 Revision \(PDF 3.5 MB\)](#)
- [NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish: 2009 Revision \(PDF 3.8 MB\)](#)
- [NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish: 2007 Revision \(PDF 3.4 MB\)](#)

Unless specified otherwise, recommended changes to the NSSP shall be implemented with the publication of the 2023 Model Ordinance.

Proposal 13-107 “Sources of Seed for Aquaculture”

- 2013 Conference Proposal aimed to shorten depuration period of seed from prohibited waters from 6 months to 1 month. Proposal sent to Committee.
- 2015 Proposal sent back to Committee again, with expanded charge to update & revise Ch VI to reflect current practices & methods.
- 2017 Conference changed the definition of “Aquaculture” and modified the requirements of Ch IV. The Conference further directed the development of guidance for Chapter VI, and charged the Aquaculture Committee with the development of a Guidance Document.
- 2023 Conference Recommended the adoption of the Aquaculture Guidance Document submitted by the Committee.

NSSP-MO Section II, Chapter VI

Requirements for the Authority:



Approve written operational plans



Inspect operations at least annually



Inspect operator records to verify permit compliance & that operational plans are being implemented



Aquaculture that attracts birds or mammals should be considered for adverse effects on growing area water quality



NSSP-MO Section II, Chapter VI

Requirements for the Harvester/Dealer:



Verify your compliance with NSSP MO requirements & local rules & regulations



Obtain permission of the Authority prior to conducting any of the aquaculture activities outlined in Chapter VI.



Conduct record keeping & implement control measures as outlined in regulation, permit conditions, and/or your operational plan

2023 FDA Control of Harvest PEER Deficiencies

- Chapter VI. .03 B. (5 – 6) requires each aquaculture site that cultures seed in waters classified as prohibited or unclassified shall have a written operational plan that includes B. (5) procedures to assure that no poisonous or deleterious substances are introduced from the seed production activities; and B. (6) corrective actions for addressing seed exceeding the maximum seed size as defined by the authority.
- Chapter VI. .04 A. (5) requires each aquaculture site that the authority determines may attract sufficient birds and mammals that their waste presents a human health risk shall have a written operational plan that includes procedures to assure that no poisonous or deleterious substances are introduced from the aquaculture activities.

DoAG Response

Chapter VI. .03 B. (5 – 6) Seed Produced in Prohibited Waters:

- All seed operations located in Prohibited waters will be required, via their Operational Plan, to obtain pre-approval for any anti-fouling agents used in their operations and agree to keep any poisonous/deleterious substances segregated from the seed area. **Existing operations will need to submit same.**
- Verified through the annual in-field inspection.
- To address seed exceeding the maximum size, the DA/BA will add a signature required section to the Aquaculture certificate stating that the applicant agrees to contact DA/BA for the appropriate corrective action. **Existing operations will need to submit same.**

Chapter VI. .04 A. (5) Aquaculture Activities that Attract Birds and/or Mammals:

- The DoAG has not yet identified any existing aquaculture sites, or gear configurations, that attract sufficient bird or mammal populations that would require a written operational plan that describes how birds/mammals would be kept away from the location to prevent their wastes from contaminating the site/growing area. Permitted aquaculture operations in Conditionally Approved or Approved growing areas will be assessed throughout the season. If birds/mammals become an issue at a site DoAG will require operator to submit operational plan to mitigate.

Questions?

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<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Aquaculture1/Aquaculture/Aquaculture-Home-Page>