



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

EHS Circular Letter #2008-64

To: Local Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Certified Food Inspectors

From: Tracey Weeks, MS, RS; Food Protection Program

Date: August 19, 2008

Subject: **FDA Warns Against Consuming Mussel Products from Bantry Bay Seafood**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers to avoid eating certain frozen cooked mussel products made by Bantry Bay Seafoods, imported from Ireland and sold in 1 pound frozen boxes to stores throughout the United States. The products have been associated with illness caused by azaspiracid toxins.

Azaspiracid marine toxins are naturally occurring and are known to cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. The toxins cannot be destroyed by freezing or cooking, including boiling.

The affected products have reportedly been distributed to Connecticut and have "Best before" end dates of 01:23:09 through 11:15:09 marked on the side of the 1 pound boxes and include frozen cooked:

- Mussels in a Garlic Butter Sauce
- Mussels in White Wine Sauce
- Mussels in Tomato and Garlic Sauce

Consumers who may have these products are urged to discard or return them to the place of purchase for a refund and to contact a healthcare professional if they experience gastrointestinal symptoms after eating the affected products. Retail and foodservice establishments are urged to remove these products from sale or service.

Please refer to the attached FDA and Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) media releases for more specific product and contact information. The Food and Standards Division (DCP) may be reached at (860) 713-6160 for additional information and assistance regarding further distribution in Connecticut.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, MS, Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH
Ellen Blaschinski, R.S., M.B.A., Chief, Regulatory Services Branch

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