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Multi-Agency Response Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill



Mitigating Consequences of an Outbreak/ Adverse Event

Greenbelt Marriott, Greenbelt, Maryland
April 27, 2011



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Presentation Overview

- Preventive measures
- Re-opening protocol
- Seafood safety criteria and methods
- Testing for re-opening and results
- Extended surveillance testing and results
- Federal and state interagency coordination

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Preventive Measures

- Closure of oil-spill impacted waters to commercial & recreational watercraft and fishing
- Closure of areas expected to be impacted by oil to commercial or recreational watercraft and fishing
- Testing of seafood from open waters to verify that closures were protective
- Performance of HACCP Inspections at Primary Seafood Processors & Wholesalers across Gulf Coast

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Extended Surveillance Testing Plan

October 1, 2010 to October 1, 2012

- Sample collection from 118 primary processors or wholesalers across the Gulf Coast
- 42 seafood specimens targeted for collection from each firm
 - 24 oysters; 8 crabs; 200 grams shrimp (approx. 10)
- 4,956 total oysters, crabs & shrimp targeted
- Actual number of specimens collected contingent upon seasonal availability of products.

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Extended Surveillance Testing Completed

For the period October 1, 2010 to April 8, 2011

- 106 seafood primary processors or wholesalers inspected and samples collected
- 1,406 seafood specimens tested
- Average of 281 specimens tested per month

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FDA Southeast Region Inspections/Vists of Regulated Gulf Coast Seafood Firms

Legend

- ▲ Firms Inspected/Visited by FDA (332 Total)
- ▨ Fishery Closure
- Current Potential Oil Footprint

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Results from Extended Surveillance Testing
Completed from October 1, 2010 to April 8, 2011

- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) levels in all test samples found to be 100 to 1000 times below levels of concern
- Dispersant (DOSS) levels in all test samples found to be below LOD in majority of samples and > 1000 times below level of concern in the few samples in which it was detected

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Federal – State Interagency Coordination

- NMFS and State public health agencies also testing for PAH and dispersant residues
- FDA, NMFS and State cooperation on uniformity of methods established
- Seafood testing is currently scheduled to continue for two years by FDA
- Data is reviewed every six months to ensure proper targeting of vulnerable species

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**Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
Status of Seafood Safety**

Fish and shellfish harvested from areas reopened or unaffected by the DWH oil spill closures are considered safe to eat

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