



Rules Comment

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Feb 6 2015 10:32AM

Last summer the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept. posted the usual signs warning people not to take shellfish from the Henderson Bay side of the Purdy spit. Nevertheless, people who park along the spit causeway, but not near those signs, could be seen digging on the beach. When we see it we report it. Oftentimes, they are entire Asian families, some of whom do not yet speak English, so it is difficult to explain the dangers to them. I will again recommend that the TPCHD issue signs in Asian languages. The new proposal should help growers and the public get ahead of the problems. Heather McFarlane Friends of Burley Lagoon

Feb 23 2015 3:32PM

I believe the proposed Vibrio Control Plan would be a step forward toward better protecting public health, and should be adopted. I think that the increased emphasis on environmental monitoring in this plan will be more proactive than waiting for illness reports before requiring control measures. I understand that most Vibrio illnesses in Washington occur in July, yet closures don't usually occur until August or September due to the time it takes to receive and verify illness reports. Having temperature thresholds to base time to temperature reductions and closures on makes more sense. It also makes sense to use illness trends as a factor in determining relative risk by geographic area, which this proposed plan will do. Finally, the requirement of shellfish growers to report production amounts in this proposed plan will greatly help refine what we know about Vibrio by giving the state a way to assess Vibrio and illness rates with amount of shellfish harvested - something that is currently impossible to do.

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