



Date: March 12, 2025

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Patty Hayes, Board Chair

Subject: Rules Briefing—The Sanitary Control of Shellfish, chapter 246-282 WAC

Background and Summary:

The State Board of Health (Board) and the Department of Health (Department) collaborate to regulate the sanitary control of molluscan shellfish. The Board serves as the rulemaking body and the Department serves as the regulatory agency. The Department also serves as the state shellfish authority administering the model ordinance of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP).

[RCW 69.30.030](#) authorizes the Board to adopt rules governing shellfish sanitation, shellfish growing areas, and shellfish operations to protect public health and safety. Further, [RCW 43.20.050](#), establishes the authority to adopt rules for the prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious disease, including food and vector borne illness.

On February 23, 2022, the Board filed a CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, as [WSR 22-06-034](#), to start rulemaking to update [chapter 246-282 WAC](#), Sanitary Control of Shellfish. The rulemaking covers miscellaneous technical revisions along with updates to WAC 246-282-006, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) Control Plan and other parts of the rule.

Board staff coordinated with the Department's Office of Environmental Health and Safety to draft potential changes and gather feedback. An informal public comment period was open from April 12, 2024, to May 24, 2024. After the informal public comment period, Board staff coordinated with the Department to host additional Rules Advisory Committee meetings to gather feedback and continue to revise the draft.

Today, Kseniya Efremova, Department staff, will brief the Board on updates to the rulemaking's progress and next steps.

Recommended Board Actions:

This is an informational update, not requiring any Board action.

Staff

Ash Noble, Policy Advisor

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PO Box 47990 • Olympia, WA 98504-7990
360-236-4110 • wsboh@sboh.wa.gov • sboh.wa.gov