

## DPH Notice to Shellfish Dealers - 2026 Vibrio Control Plan

The Massachusetts 2026 control season for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* will begin on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and end on Monday, October 19, 2026. A copy of the 2026 Vibrio Control Plan (VCP) is attached to this email and is available online at [Division of Food Protection](#).

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) created the other documents attached to this email to help shellfish dealers comply with the 2026 VCP. These documents include a sample *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* HACCP Form for Original Dealers and a sample 2026 Vibrio Control Plan HACCP Monitoring Record (with an example containing data).

### \*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*

On December 23, 2025, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) announced that it would no longer issue shellfish transaction cards to commercial shellfish harvesters because the technology is outdated. DMF and DPH are currently working to transition to a modern solution. However, that will likely not be available until 2027. During the interim, the following will be required by shellfish harvesters and dealers.

- **DMF will require commercial shellfish harvesters to present their commercial shellfish permit (paper or electronic copy) and a valid state issued ID (to authenticate) to wholesale dealers at the point of primary transaction.**
- **DPH will require shellfish dealers to ensure that transaction records are maintained that capture the same information as the transaction slip (electronic records are acceptable) and are organized so they are readily available and can be provided as needed for DPH inspectors to facilitate shellfish traceability for illness investigations, product recalls, etc.**

### \*\*\*REMINDER\*\*\*

Seafood dealers that receive live oysters from harvesters are advised to review Section C ("Original Dealers") in the 2026 VCP. Section C requires dealers to implement the 2026 VCP and update their Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plans by Tuesday, May 19, 2026. The advisory means:

- **Dealers must have HACCP plans that include the Critical Control Points and Critical Limits identified in Section C of the 2026 Vibrio Control Plan and**
- **Dealers must monitor Critical Limits for each Critical Control Point in accordance with the requirements provided in Section C.**

Shellfish dealers with questions about the 2026 VCP or its support documents should contact the DPH inspector who usually inspects their facility. That inspector's name and contact information can be found in the most recent inspection report issued to the facility by DPH. Questions concerning the 2026 VCP or its support documents may also be submitted to the Division of Food Protection at [fpp.dph@mass.gov](mailto:fpp.dph@mass.gov).