



# Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference(ISSC) Overview

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# What is the ISSC?

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- The Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) was formed in 1982 to foster and promote shellfish sanitation through the cooperation of state and federal control agencies, the shellfish industry, and the academic community. To achieve this purpose the ISSC:
- Adopts uniform procedures, incorporated into an Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Program, and implemented by all shellfish control agencies;
- Gives state shellfish programs current and comprehensive sanitation guidelines to regulate the harvesting, processing, and shipping of shellfish;
- Provides a forum for shellfish control agencies, the shellfish industry, and academic community to resolve major issues concerning shellfish sanitation;
- Informs all interested parties of recent developments in shellfish sanitation and other major issues of concern through the use of news media, publications, regional and national meetings, internet, and by working closely with academic institutions and trade associations.

# National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish

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- The NSSP Guide regulates the safe and sanitary control of the growing, processing, and shipping of molluscan shellfish for human consumption - in MD, MDE, DNR, and MDH all have responsibilities in the program
- The NSSP Model Ordinance is incorporated by reference as Maryland Regulation, COMAR 10.15.07
- The 2019 Model Ordinance is expected to be published in late Spring 2020.

# 2019 ISSC Conference

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Conference Meetings are currently being held every two years (Biennially)

Last Conference was held October 5-10, 2019 in San Diego, CA

A record number of model ordinance proposals (130+) were submitted for discussion, review, and voting at this conference by industry members, state regulatory members, and by the Food & Drug Administration(FDA)

# 2019 Proposal Topics

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## Proposals submitted included several relating to:

- Use of hand sanitizers by shellfish dealers
- Backflow prevention devices in shellfish firms
- Safety of water used to produce ice that is used by harvesters to cool shellstock harvested in warm months (testing requirements)
- Transportation documentation requirements for shellstock for dealer to dealer transactions

# 2019 Proposal Topics

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- Illness investigation procedures used by states when multiple sources of shellstock are potentially consumed
- Shellstock co-packing operation tagging issues with traceback concerns
- FDA oversight and evaluation of state shellfish programs
- New laboratory testing methods for NSSP MO references

# Life of a Proposal at the ISSC Meeting

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Proposals can be submitted by any conference member (industry, state regulatory agency) or FDA

Proposal is assigned to the appropriate TASK FORCE (I, II, or III) for open discussion

The Task Force makes a recommendation to the Conference membership for each proposal - either NO ACTION, REFER TO COMMITTEE, or ADOPT.

General Assembly voting members (state representatives) vote on the recommendations made of the Task Forces.

# Life of a Proposal at the ISSC Meeting

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Proposals with a “No Action” designation are no longer considered

Proposals sent to Committee will be returned for discussion with committee input at the next Biennial Meeting. Some proposals can “hang around” for several conference meetings.

Proposals that are adopted for incorporation into the Nssp Model Ordinance become effective once the document is published.

\*\*FDA reviews all of the decisions made by the conference and can “concur” or “not concur” and this will have an effect on the final document. Currently, we are in this review period and are waiting for the announcement of the publication of the 2019 Model Ordinance