

## MINUTES

A meeting of the ISSC Executive Board was held by video conference.

### I. Attendance

#### Board Members Present

Kohl Kanwit	Chair
Bob Schuster	Vice Chair/ Region 2 Regulatory ISSC
Keith Skiles	Executive Director
Eric Hickey	Region 1 Regulatory
Steve Fleetwood	Region 2 Industry
Michael Bott	Region 3 Regulatory
Shannon Jenkins	Region 4 Regulatory / Patrol
Barry Hurt	Region 4 Industry
Eric Broussard	Region 5 Regulatory
Alex Manderson	Region 6 Regulatory/
Diani Taylor	Region 6 Industry
Bruce Flippens	Non-Producing
John Strauss	Non-Producing
Melissa Abbott	FDA
Laurie Farmer	FDA/ORA
Steven Wilson	FDA
Bill Kramer	EPA
Bruce Gutelius	CDC
David Fyfe	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
AJ Erskine	XX
Keith Jackson	Retail Advisory

#### Board Members Absent

Lori Howell	Region 1 Industry
Bob Rheault	Region
John Tesvich	Region 5 Industry
Johnathan Gerhardt	Non-Producing
Steve Wilson	NOAA

### II. OPENING REMARKS

#### Kohl Kanwit

A motion was called to approve board meeting minutes from October 19th . Motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

Welcomed board to Fall 2021 virtual meeting. Expressed the communication has made significant improvements.

### III. UPDATES

#### Melissa Abbott

New Epidemiologist has been hired. Will be managing all illness monitoring for seafood safety with the FDA. Working on hiring new LEO position. Will keep conference informed. Current LEOs continuing to provide technical evaluations for laboratories that needed to expand their scope of services.

Last month's FDA/ISSC information session was well attended and the overwhelming majority of the feedback was positive. Results, suggestions, and have been shared with the executive office.

The Vibrio Assistant Review Board has no active projects and is in the process of combining updates finished projects with the vibrio ecological forecasting update, all of which will be provided to the VMC next year ahead of the conference.

The Growing Area Review Board has four reviewed projects that are awaiting to be scheduled once COVID travel restrictions lift.

NSSP method portal is now live on the ISSC website

Shellfish Plant Standardization course will be held in January of 2022. Advanced Sanitation of Shellfish growing areas will be held in July of 2022. All courses from OTED in FY 2022 will be virtual. Course announcements will be distributed via email.

#### Bess Ormond

Michael Lombardi has been hired as branch two manager.

Evaluations will now align with the fiscal year, and are currently underway

#### Steve Wilson

Two new atlases for developing aquaculture opportunities in the gulf are being released.

Molluscan shellfish certificate with EU is being reviewed.

#### Bill Kramer

Reviewed EPA attachment

#### CDC

Working on new data system for illness surveillance. Expected to be running by the Summer of 2022.

Working on rebuilding team.

#### IV. REGIONAL UPDATES

##### Region One Regulatory

Highlights: NH in the process of standardizing shellfish rules. Harvest areas expanding. RI has completed first application for resumption of shellfish trade with the EU. MA's food protection program will be standardizing two additional inspectors.

Concerns: New NSSP marina and mooring classifications criteria potentially could conflict with state water quality regulations in the region. There is additional concern about the lack of guidance for implementation of these requirements. How state authorities are informed of private lab certifications and evaluations. Concern that new response time for states is too short, and that they are losing a week for review. Some states are struggling to meet the inspection frequency requirements.

##### Region Two Regulatory

Highlights: CT is in the process of rebuilding staff, however they have not experienced any impact to their program because of this. Aquaculture is growing rapidly and their funding is at 100%. NY has moved marine division to new building, and their lab is in the process of being moved. NJ working on rebuilding staff. Updating rules, and will likely adopt without change.

##### Region Two Industry

Highlights: Still recovering from pandemic, however the market came back strong and states were able to get rid of most of their product

##### Region Three Regulatory

Highlights: States have been having regional calls every two months where they address inter-region issues.

Concerns: Would like to see continued efforts for transparency within the ISSC, as the formalization of mechanisms for bringing concerns to the attention of the conference.

##### Region Four Regulatory

Highlights: Florida has seen a significant increase in aquaculture throughout the state. Georgia's new rules went to effect. SC is at full staff for the first time in 7 years. NC shellfish mariculture is growing at a healthy pace.

Concerns: Red tide bloom in FL has led to interest in the state for a new lab method.

#### **IV. REGIONAL UPDATES cont.**

##### Region Four Industry

All states are still feeling effects of COVID-19, but things are starting to improve. There is a desire to incorporate new technologies going forward.

##### Region Five Regulatory

There have been several staff changes throughout the region. Public seasons are ongoing in Texas and Alabama. Mississippi is working with the FDA to get a lab up and running in the state.

##### Region 6 Regulatory

Continuing with regional regulatory group meetings. A virtual regional shellfish conference in April of next year, and is open to everyone.

Concerns: There has been some concern with the way that FDA is conducting POs.

##### Region 6 Industry

Industry still dealing with shifting challenges of COVID-19, but has recovered a lot of ground and rebounded. The region appreciated earlier ISSC meetings dedicated to improving communication.

Concerns: Heatwave earlier in the year led to closures.

#### **V. FDA UPDATES**

Currently have seven states with prospective LEOs, at various stages of their standardization activities. CA, CT, FL ME, NJ SC, VA.

SSO Standardization in the field is a priority. Completed 12 outstanding SSO this past year. Currently 13 additional candidates across the country that have expiration dates in 2021, and an additional 9 that will expire next year. Currently 13 additional candidates across the country that have expiration dates in 2021, and an additional 9 that will expire next year.

#### **VI. PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Informal membership poll, most members said they were interested in a face to face meeting. A 2022 meeting would mean being off the regular schedule by a year.

## VI. PROGRAM CHAIRMAIN'S REPORT *cont.*

Various board members reaffirmed interest in a face to face meeting, though there was concern that having the meeting in a traditional off year may lead to an arise of conflicts.

The Executive Office has been focusing search on Louisiana and Florida, and has narrowed in on Jacksonville, Florida, and has made a site visit there. Hypothetically, the meeting could start October 1st 2022, which may prevent issues for federal employees.

Many expressed that holding off on having an in person Fall 2022 meeting, and having a spring 2023 meeting instead would make the most sense.

Motion was made to consider holding a full spring biennial meeting in 2023. Motion was seconded and carried on a vote voice.

## VII. SPRING 2022 BOARD MEETING

Interest was expressed in having an in person meeting in the Spring of 2022, potentially in a control hub, where there are high vaccinations rates.

Executive office will begin to explore options and report back to the board.

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Executive Board

Board is asked to fill out financial conflict of interest statement and send it in to the executive office.

ISSC 2020 tax return and financial review audit are completed and available for review.

ISSC has received the cooperative agreement grant, the first year in a five year cycle.

The Executive Office recommends invoicing membership for 2022, and getting back to usual biennial meeting schedule in

A motion was made to keep membership rates the same for 2022. The motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.**

### Laboratory Committee

There are currently 19 proposals in front of the lab committee. Ten are new methods, eight are modifications, and one is related to the lab evaluations process. The lab committee has made final recommendations on four proposals

Presented proposal 19136, which seeks to introduce a lab evaluation checklist for liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry method for the determination of diarrhetic shellfish poisoning toxins in shellfish. The laboratory committee recommends additional data submission sent out to board be appended to the original proposal so it is captured in original summary of actions at the next biennial meeting. A motion was made to accept the lab committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

The lab committee also proposed that the amended checklist that they have recommended be adopted by the board. A motion was made to accept the recommendation. The motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

### Federal Waters

Committee voted to recommend to remove the sunset date of November 1st, which was adopted by the board

Established smaller sub committee to recommend guidance, and hope to make their recommendations to the full committee by December

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

### International Trade

Next step is for the language in the export health certificate agreed upon by NOAA and the EU to be reviewed and approved by member states during their committee meetings.

FDA has received a request from the UAE indicating their desire for market access for shellfish exports to the US.

### AFDO/FDA Portal

Budget to be maintained. \$560,000 was awarded to states for equipment and \$202,000 was awarded to states for training.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS cont.**

Research Projects

Research projects were impacted by workforce limitations imposed by COVID, and all have requested extensions.

ISSC has received a final report submitted from the VA Department of Health, and is expecting to receive other two final reports. All final reports will be available on the website.

COVID Strategy

Motion was made to establish a committee to a workgroup be formed to examine COVID strategy and propose any necessary amendments. Motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

Suggested that this group be made up of two states, two federal, two industry members and the chair. Original motion was amended to include these details and carried by a voice vote.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Executive Board Elections

With the change in dates of the biennial meeting, it is not possible for the four year board terms to end at the biennial meeting, as stated in the bylaws.

A motion was made to keep the current board makeup and hold off elections until the biennial meeting in 2023. The motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

Reference Repository

Executive office is exploring posting helpful documents in a section of the website that ISSC members can easily access.

Pathogen Review Committee

Motion made to initiate a procedure 14 campylobactor subcommittee. Motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

## **XI OTHER**

### Illnesses

CDC has just made call for illness reports from states, and is awaiting data.

A motion was made to go into executive session and excuse non-members of the board. The vote as seconded and carried by a voice vote.

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