

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 28, 2013

**TO:** Division of Shellfish Sanitation Staff

**FROM:** Robert E. Croonenberghs, PhD, Director   
Division of Shellfish Sanitation

**THROUGH:** Allen L. Knapp, Director   
Office of Environmental Services

**THROUGH:** Cynthia C. Romero, MD, FAAFP   
State Health Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Policy for Virginia's Public Health Shellfish Program

**Delete Working Memo #338**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this protocol is to establish the Department of Health's official policy for the public health aspects of the Commonwealth's shellfish program.

**Description:**

The legal basis for the shellfish program in Virginia is primarily contained in §§28.2-800 through 28.2-826 of the *Code of Virginia* (the Code). On May 1, 1969, the Commissioner of Marine Resources and the State Health Commissioner signed the "Agreement of Cooperative Procedures for Administering and Regulating the Sanitary Control of the Shellfish Industry by the Virginia State Department of Health and the Marine Resources Commission". This agreement delineates the various programs carried out by each Department concerning Virginia's shellfish program.

In order for states to ship their products on interstate markets, their programs must be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to meet the minimum requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP). These minimum requirements are contained in the NSSP Model Ordinance, and the current version is the 2011 revision.

**Conclusion:**

Pursuant to §§28.2-800 through 28.2-826 of the Code, this working memo establishes that the Virginia Department of Health shall adopt the requirements of the NSSP Model Ordinance, 2011 revision, as the basic standards for carrying out its portion of Virginia's shellfish program.