

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

02-20

1/10/20

**ANALYSIS OF *E. COLI* AND *ENTEROCOCCUS* OF FISH OF THE ORDER
OF *SILURIFORMES***

NOTE: DO NOT IMPLEMENT THIS NOTICE UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 2020.

I. PURPOSE

This notice informs inspection program personnel (IPP) at official establishments and official import inspection establishments about additional microbial target (i.e., *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and *Enterococcus*) results for routine samples collected for *Siluriformes* fish (hereafter referred to as “fish”) and fish products as part of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS).

II. BACKGROUND

A. Starting on or after February 1, 2020, fish samples, including IMPFISH_MI and EXP_FI_MIC01 samples, collected for *Salmonella* analysis will also be analyzed for *E. coli* and *Enterococcus*. There are no changes to the collection procedures of these projects; the only change is additional analyses conducted on existing samples. The *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* analyses results are non-regulatory and are for monitoring trends in antimicrobial resistance and susceptibility; products are not required to be held pending test results, and these results do not impact the acceptance of imported products.

B. FSIS uses data from NARMS to monitor trends in antimicrobial resistance and susceptibility among enteric bacteria in food animals on a yearly basis. As a part of NARMS, fish samples routinely collected will be analyzed for *E. coli* and *Enterococcus*. Isolates from these analyses, as well as the current *Salmonella* isolates recovered, will be further analyzed for antimicrobial susceptibility. Results will be posted in the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)-Direct and PHIS for individual establishment access. These additional analyses will be performed at the FSIS Western Laboratory.

III. SAMPLING TASK ASSIGNMENT

Project Code	Product Type	Additional Analyses
IMPFISH_MI	Raw	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>Enterococcus</i> ; AST
EXP_FI_MIC01	Raw	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>Enterococcus</i> ; AST

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 1/1/21

OPI: OPPD

IV. AWARENESS MEETING WITH PLANT MANAGEMENT

Upon issuance of this notice, IPP at fish establishments are to review the information in this notice with establishment management during the next weekly meeting. IPP are to advise establishment management that the additional analyses will begin on or after February 1, 2020. Sample results from the FSIS NARMS sampling program are non-regulatory; therefore, establishments do not need to hold products.

V. SAMPLE RESULTS REPORTING

- A. Positive *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* sample results will not result in regulatory control actions for raw fish.
- B. Results of these additional targets will be posted in Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)-Direct and PHIS.

VI. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Office of Policy and Program Development through [askFSIS](#), or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question, use the Submit a Question tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field: Enter **Notice 02-20**.

Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible.

Product Field: Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.

Category Field: Select **Sampling-General** from the drop-down menu.

Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question**.

NOTE: Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.



Assistant Administrator
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