



## Seafood Industry Notice

Notice 2015-001

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The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) is committed to working with the seafood industry to help ensure that safe, high quality seafood enters the British Columbia marketplace to facilitate greater consumer and retailer confidence leading to further growth and development of BC's entire agrifoods sector.

The new *Fish and Seafood Act*, which has a greater emphasis on food safety, will soon replace the dated *Fisheries Act* and *Fish Inspection Act*. As a result, new regulations are currently being drafted that may affect how some participants in the seafood industry will operate. It is likely that all operators licensed by the ministry will be required to develop, maintain and follow a written Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based food safety and sanitation plan which addresses all potential food safety concerns.

HACCP is a food safety system designed to identify and control hazards that may occur in the food production process. The HACCP approach focuses on preventing potential problems that are critical to food safety known as 'critical control points' (CCP's) through monitoring and controlling each step of the process. HACCP applies science-based controls and is designed to identify and control potential problems before they occur. Any HACCP system is capable of accommodating change, such as advances in equipment design, processing procedures or technological developments.

Over the past two years, and as part of the annual inspection process, provincial Fisheries Inspectors have been recommending that all licensed processors consider adopting written food safety and sanitation plans in anticipation of these regulatory changes. In anticipation of this upcoming regulatory requirement, the following link provides resources and guidance on how to develop a HACCP-based plan for the operations in your licensed establishment:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/38081222-DF1A-4E97-9E92-4FE8F4B7BBCC/0/FishProcessingHACCP.pdf>

To stay current on regulatory changes, visit our website at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=E1BBC2B708014019A5F31903A733735E>