



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental
Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Environmental Health Laboratory

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March 5, 2024

RE: Environmental Health Laboratory schedule week of Mar. 25-29, 2024

To our valued clients:

Alaska state offices will be **closed** on Monday, March 25th in observance of Seward's Day.

As a result, the sample acceptance schedule for **Mar. 25- Mar. 29** must be modified, as follows:

- Shellfish Growing Water (SGW) samples will be accepted on Tuesday Mar. 26, Wednesday Mar. 27, and by noon on Thursday Mar. 28.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) commercial samples will be accepted Tuesday Mar. 26, Wednesday Mar. 27, Thursday Mar. 28, and by noon on Friday Mar. 29.
- Wet Storage samples will be accepted by 3pm Tuesday Mar. 26.
- Raw meat samples will be accepted Tuesday Mar. 26, Wednesday Mar. 27, and by noon on Thursday Mar. 28, however meat samples are pooled for efficiency, generally once a week.
- Slaughter sponge samples are good for 24 hours per USDA. Sponges will be accepted Tuesday Mar. 26, Wednesday Mar. 27, and by noon on Thursday Mar. 28, unless written extension provided to hold longer than 24 hours for testing.
- Manufactured and Cottage food samples will be accepted Tuesday Mar. 26– Friday Mar. 29, however the testing will be conducted when samples are pooled for efficiency.
- Dairy testing is scheduled once a month, as usual, and is scheduled for the week of Mar. 11.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) recreational/research (PCOX) sample will be accepted Tuesday Mar. 26– Friday Mar. 29, however the testing will be as soon as possible given current backlog.

Normal sample acceptance schedules resume on Monday, Apr. 1, 2024.

Assistance is available with timing of sample collections, completion of submission forms, packaging, temperature requirements, shipping, and sample tracking. Sampling questions, planned sampling activities, and shipping notifications, can be made to DEC.EH-Lab-ShippingReceiving@alaska.gov or 907-375-8231.

Regards,

Patryce D. McKinney, MBA
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory