



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental  
Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
Environmental Health Laboratory

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December 11, 2024

**RE: Environmental Health Laboratory schedule week of December 30, 2024-January 3, 2025**

To our valued clients:

Alaska state offices will be **closed** on Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of New Year's Day.

As a result, the sample acceptance schedule for **December 30-January 3** must be modified, as follows:

- Shellfish Growing Water (SGW) samples will be accepted by noon Monday Dec. 30 and by noon Thursday Jan. 2.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) commercial samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 30, by noon Tuesday Dec. 31, Thursday Jan. 2, and by noon Friday Jan. 3.
- Wet Storage samples will be accepted by noon ONLY on Tuesday Dec. 31.
- Raw meat samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 30, by noon Tuesday Dec. 31, and by noon Thursday Jan. 2, 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 Monday Dec. 30 and by noon Tuesday Dec. 31, and by noon Thursday Jan. 2 unless written extension provided to hold longer than 24 hours for testing.
- Manufactured and Cottage food samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 30, by noon Tuesday Dec. 31, Thursday Jan. 2, and Friday Jan. 3, 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 Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and then Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) recreational/research (PCOX) sample will be accepted any workday; however, the testing will be as soon as possible given current backlog.

Normal sample acceptance schedules resume on Monday, January 6, 2025.

Assistance is available with timing of sample collections, completion of submission forms, packaging, temperature requirements, shipping, and sample tracking. Please send sampling questions, planned sampling activities, and shipping notifications to [DEC.EH-Lab-ShippingReceiving@alaska.gov](mailto:DEC.EH-Lab-ShippingReceiving@alaska.gov) or 907-375-8231.

Regards,

Patryce D. McKinney, MBA  
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory