

ADVISORY GROUP ON Elimination of Duplicative and Non-Essential Services PROPOSAL #: AGDNES #29
 SUBJECT: DHH/DEQ/DWF - Fish/Shellfish Sampling DATE ADOPTED BY ADVISORY GROUP: November 9, 2009
 COMMISSION ACTION: ADOPTED DATE: November 17, 2009 RECOMMENDATION #: 109

RECOMMENDATION: Develop plan and explore efficiency opportunities for consolidating field sampling programs within the departments of Health and Hospitals, Environmental Quality and Wildlife and Fisheries.

Summary Description/Nature of Change	Key/Implementation Responsibilities	Need	Action Needed	Benefit/Saving	Done/ Study
Develop a plan and explore efficiency opportunities for consolidating field sampling programs within DHH, DEQ, and DWF.	DHH, DEQ, and DWF	Both DEQ and DWF sampling tests fish. DEQ test for levels of mercury in the water body and in the fish. DWF tests for water quality properties such as salinity and oxygen levels. DHH sampling focuses on determining the level of fecal coliform and ecoli levels in molluscan shellfish growing areas. This is a lab analysis to determine safety of the product. The task is about speed and volume. Samples are time sensitive and must at the lab ASAP. DHH sample sites are strategically located to monitor oysters while DWF sites are located to follow species travel and reefs, allowing effective management of resource.	An in-depth analysis to project possible cost-savings estimates in the areas of boat fleet management, personnel sharing, and sampling equipment	Since DHH sampling sites cover 8 million acres, DHH could provide data collection with DEQ and DWF on water salinity and temps at 1 foot of depth and fecal coliform value for these sites. DWF and DEQ have similar objectives and equipment in collection and analysis of fish sampling; therefore an in-dept analysis may determine savings in sharing field and lab analysis of data collected, as well through sampling site coordination.	DHH primary objective is maintain compliance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program and Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference to allow oysters to be sold through interstate commerce.