

## ***Shellfish Importers and Dealers: We Need Your Help to Protect U.S. Shellfish***

Imported shellfish may contain pathogens and viruses that can injure or kill our native shellfish, and we need your help to make sure this doesn't happen. We are asking you to place **free tags** on imported shellfish to alert your customers to the risk that imported shellfish could pose to our native stocks.

Ostreid herpesvirus-1 (OsHV-1), the virus that causes Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS), has caused mass mortalities of shellfish around the world. The virus does not affect humans, but poses a significant threat to a wide variety of shellfish that live in U.S. waters. We know that the virus can be carried in live or frozen shellfish imported from the regions of the world where it is present.

To protect U.S. shellfish farms and natural resources, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends that shellfish importers, dealers and consumers take certain precautions to remain in compliance with U.S. regulations such as the Clean Water Act and the Lacey Act.

Shellfish importers and dealers selling shellfish imported from countries where OsHV-1 is known to occur can request **free tags** to put on shellfish bags or boxes reminding customers that it is illegal to place imported shellfish in U.S. waters. For **free tags** contact Bob Rheault, Executive Director, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, at [bob@ecsga.org](mailto:bob@ecsga.org).

### **ALERT**

Shellfish from foreign countries may carry a disease that could kill our shellfish (though it's harmless to humans).

According to the Lacey Act, it is illegal to discard or hold foreign shellfish in U.S. waters.

For more info visit: [ECSGA.org/OsHV](http://ECSGA.org/OsHV)



### **Keep Our Waters Safe!**

**DO NOT** put imported shellfish or shells into U.S. waters.

For more info visit: [ECSGA.org/OsHV](http://ECSGA.org/OsHV)



#### **For live and frozen imported shellfish, and live-holding (wet-storage) water:**

- Never hold or release imported shellfish into open water systems.
- Do not wet-store/"refresh"/"freshen" live, imported shellfish in open water systems or in systems that discharge untreated water into the coastal waters of the United States. These discharge waters must be treated or must drain to municipal sewers.
- Do not use imported shellfish as bait.
- Do not discard raw or untreated shells into open water.
- Do not dump untreated water used to transport or hold imported shellfish into the waters of the United States.

For more info on OsHV-1 visit [ECSCGA.org/OsHV](http://ECSCGA.org/OsHV)  
Get your **free tags** by emailing [Bob@ECSCGA.org](mailto:Bob@ECSCGA.org)

