

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratories	
Test Name	Bacteriological Examination of Shellfish
PHL Location	Central Laboratory
CPT Code	N/A
Synonyms	N/A
Brief Description of Test	Oysters are received in the shell and must be shucked. This process uses the Multiple Tube Fermentation (MTF) method to detect and estimate the fecal coliform population in oyster meat samples. The fecal Most Probable Number (MPN) uses 1-1, 1-10, 1-100 and 1-1000 dilutions.
Possible Results	Fecal coliform MPN/gram
Reference Range	N/A
Specimen Type	Raw un-shucked oysters.
Specimen Container(s):	Heavy duty bags tied and tagged to insure sample integrity.
Minimum volume accepted:	According to the size of the oysters, normally 15-20 oysters that would generate a raw meat weight of at least 200 grams.
Collection Instructions	Oyster samples are collected in a clean, waterproof, puncture resistant container directly from oyster growing beds according to established protocols.
Storage and Transport Instructions	Store and transport in clean, iced cooler at 0 - 10°C
Causes for Rejection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sample submitted more than 24 hours after collection (oyster meats) 2. Sample submitted frozen 3. Sample >10°C upon receipt 4. No sample ID 5. Unsatisfactory sample container 6. Unacceptable sample volume 7. Leaking container 8. Sample submerged under ice slush/water
Limitations of the Procedure	Overgrowth by non-coliform bacteria. Coliforms may be found with the absence of <i>E. coli</i> .
Interfering Substances	N/A
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish: 2017 Revision. 2. Quality Assurance Manual for the Laboratory Analysis of Shellfish and Shell Growing Water LA DHH-OPH Laboratories. DOLQAMSF-01

Additional Information	A completed Lab 47 form must accompany each sample. The name of the collector, date and time of collection and location of where sample was taken must be noted.
Release Date	06/12/2019
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