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NFI COVID-19 Sitrep #76

NFI Tools for Members

1. On Wednesday 12 August, Datassential's Kelley Fechner joined NFI for a webinar that [provided analysis](#) of COVID foodservice trends, offered consumer insights and reviewed a restaurant recovery status report. She also presented new information from Datassential's updated MenuTrends database. You can view that webinar [here](#).
2. On Thursday 27 August 1:00pm – 2:00pm (EST) Rabobank will host a Webinar on COVID related consumer behaviors. Will new consumer behaviors last? How are companies taking this opportunity to help shape some of this new normal? With lower seafood sales in food service, is there an opportunity to permanently increase retail sales? The challenge is supplying the right products, species, packaging, messaging, and other aspects to encourage home cooking. During Rabobank's "Bringing the Seafood Restaurant Experience Home" webinar, [Gorjan Nikolik](#), Rabobank's Global Seafood Specialist, will lead a panel of highly regarded seafood leaders: Rod Hepponstall, CEO Highliner Foods, Ohad Maiman, Founder and CEO The Kingfish Company, Omar Alfi, Co-CEO Pacifico Aquaculture and Chef Adrienne Cheatham, who will discuss how they are navigating their businesses in these uncharted waters. Register [here](#).

Food Safety and Technical Documents

1. The [Food Protection and Defense Institute](#) has updated its "COVID-19 Near-Term Issues Spotting in Food Supply Chain" report. While the focus is meat production the section on "Recommendations from authoritative bodies" provides a good library of relevant food production issue links.

Employee and Plant Safety Technical Documents

1. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has updated its [Guidance on The Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#). Version 4.0 continues to identify “workers enabling the sale of human food” as essential workers, including those who work in “processing facilities for livestock, poultry, and seafood.” This new list is designed to better identify jobs that, “may require specialized risk management strategies to ensure that they can work safely.” For guidance on work place safety approaches DHS refers readers to the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#).
2. CDC’s [Meat and Poultry Processing Facility Assessment Tool kit](#) has been updated. The Facility Assessment Checklist is not seafood specific but it may be a harbinger of emerging best practices.

Media Reports

1. [Reuters](#) reports authorities in China have found coronavirus on the packaging of imported frozen seafood that arrived from the port city of Dalian. (See #1 from FDA in the section below for more.)
2. Meanwhile, [The Scientist](#) magazine published a story titled *Coronavirus Found on Food Packaging, but Likely of Little Concern*.
3. [Food Safety Magazine](#) published a column penned by the American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) primarily focused on its listeria prevention and control strategy. However, the column does share [a useful link](#) to AFFI resources for operating frozen food facilities during COVID-19.
4. A story published by [AFP](#) reveals the "remarkable, real-life, human experiment" of neutralizing COVID-19 antibodies that unfolded when the crew of a Seattle fishing vessel was exposed to the coronavirus.

Federal and State Government Reports

1. These days a tweet is often the closest thing to a “Federal Report.” So, the importance should not be underestimated of [a tweet from the FDA’s Deputy Commissioner](#) that says, “True then. True still today. There is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19.”
2. Fishery observers have been redeployed in the Northeast as of August 14. NOAA Northeast Fisheries Observer Program staff held an outreach webinar August 12 to present information on redeployment procedures and to answer questions. The webinar was recorded and the

recording is available online through August 19, 2020. To access the webinar recording, email ne.observerprogram@noaa.gov

3. USDA FSIS will hold a their bi-monthly call regarding COVID-19 for their regulated establishments to hear updates and have questions and concerns addressed. The call is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19 at 1:00pm ET. Call-in information is as follows: dial-in: 888-251-2949 or 215-861-0694; Access Code: 6344202#.
4. Miller Strategies, an NFI consultant, provides a [summary of political and related issues for 17 August 2020](#). There are no updates or prognostication on the fate of the next stimulus package in this edition but the (partisan) report does illustrate what Capitol Hill is focused on today from a COVID-19 perspective.

Public Health in Perspective

1. [Here](#) is the latest update to the World Health Organization's Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Situation Report. It reviews data on infection rates from national authorities in countries all over the globe.

Previously Reported Government or Industry Actions NFI will store all previous links in the [NFI COVID Resource Center](#).

[NFI offers an antitrust reminder](#) not because of specific seafood industry actions that raise antitrust concerns, but instead simply to highlight DOJ's emphasis on this area of enforcement, and as a reminder that these laws apply during a difficult time for all member companies