



***NFI will begin to do these situation reports Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, beginning 27 May 2020.***

**25 May 2020 – Memorial Day**

**NFI COVID-19 Sitrep #50**

***NFI Tools for Members:***

1. NFI will host a webinar on Wednesday 27 May 1200- 100 pm (eastern) to review how NFI members s can help access the \$300 million in CARES Act funding. Look for a registration link on Tuesday or [email John Connelly](#) for link.
2. NFI will continue its webinar for member company technical staff on Friday, 19 May 1200-130. The discussion will focus on nitty gritty of handwashing, masks, and COVID-19 Testing. [Register here](#) for the is session for NFI members.
3. NFI’s 22 May technical webinar addressed [Mitigation Strategies for Non-Production Operations](#) and included more than 30 NFI members from 21 companies reviewing a [presentation on guidance for offices](#), warehousing and other non-production operations to minimize worker exposure risk.

***Food Safety and Technical Documents***

1. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is [extending its application period for its Voluntary Qualified Importer Program \(VQIP\)](#) to July 31. The application extension is because of the COVID-19 public health emergency and current travel restrictions and advisories.
2. To assist seafood processors who may be facing shortages of certain ingredients, FDA has issued a [“Temporary Policy Regarding Certain Food Labeling Requirements During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: Minor Formulation Changes and Vending Machines.”](#) This guidance will provide processors with some flexibility in making minor substitutions of certain ingredients without having to change the ingredient statement on labels. Specific principles must still be maintained when considering the

appropriateness of these substitutions. Considerations of safety (i.e., allergens or sensitivities), prominence of ingredient, characterizing ingredient, impact on label claims, nutritional content and ingredient function all influence this temporary deviation from FDA's labeling regulations. Provided examples help to explain the guidance.

### **Employee and Plant Safety Technical Documents**

1. If you are experiencing if you are experiencing difficulties in sourcing PPE, disinfectants, or sanitation supplies, please review [Food and Agriculture: Considerations for Prioritization of PPE, Cloth Face Coverings, Disinfectants, and Sanitation Supplies During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). If you still cannot meet your needs, let NFI know and we will raise with senior government officials. While certain PPEs are prioritized for healthcare providers and first responders, the food industry is considered a critical infrastructure, essential to maintain the continuity of the food supply during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Reopening the Economy and Market Reports**

1. None noted.

### **Government Stimulus, Assistance, and Regulatory Relief Programs**

1. SBA has an Interim Final Rulemaking [on loan forgiveness for the SBA PPP loan program](#). This goes along with the Loan Forgiveness Application released previously.

### **Media and Other Reports:**

1. None noted

### **Developing Administration and State Actions and Legislative Activity**

1. Due to the uncertainties created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the unique challenges those are creating for the agency, NOAA Fisheries today took the unprecedented step to [cancel five of six large scale research surveys in federal waters off Alaska in 2020](#). The cancelled surveys include the Aleutian Islands bottom trawl survey, the eastern Bering Sea bottom trawl survey, the northern Bering Sea bottom trawl survey, the Bering Sea pollock acoustics survey, and the Fall Ecosystem Survey.

### **Federal and State Government Reports**

1. Miller Strategies, an NFI consultant, provides a [daily summary of White House, Congressional, and political updates](#).

**Other Governments Actions**

1. None noted

**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.*