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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health

Alfred L. Frechette, M.D.
Commissioner

600 Washington Street
Boston 02111

August 6, 1981

Representative Roger R. Goyette
House of Representatives
State House
Boston, MA.

Dear Representative Goyette:

The analysis of lobsters taken from the greater New Bedford harbor closure Area 3 and open Area 4 during June, 1981 in a testing program for PCB's has been completed by the Federal Food and Drug Administration and the Cat Cove Laboratory of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). The lobsters were collected by DMF and Department of Public Health staff and delivered to the FDA. The latter prepared the duplicate samples for analysis. The independently derived results are given below. As you can see the results are in close agreement.

DMF SITE	HARBOR AREA	PCB Levels (Aroclor 1254)(PPM)	
		FDA	CAT COVE
PPP	4	3.3	2.4
QQQ	4	6.8	7.2
SSS	4	1.5	1.5
SS	3	8.9	8.8
TT	3	5.9	8.3
UC	3	4.1	4.0
VV	3	2.0	2.5
YY	3	4.6	1.7

Three of the eight samples were in excess of 5ppm, which is the FDA limit for PCB's. Two of these were taken from closure Area 3. The other was taken from outside the closure areas (Area 4).

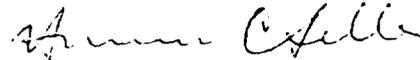
Based on these results, the DPH feels that the original basis for closure of the greater New Bedford harbor still exists. The DPH will therefore maintain the present closure and by means of this letter we will inform the other agencies concerned.

(continue)

Further, we recommend that a continuing sampling program be established on a routine basis, and we are prepared to cooperate fully in this with the DMF.

Finally I should like to note that the collection, analysis and reporting of data on the lobster samples was made possible through the joint efforts of the Division of Marine Fisheries, the Federal Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Public Health.

Sincerely yours,



Norman C. Telles, M.D., Director
Division of Environmental Health
Assessment

NCT/cyh