



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

EHS Circular Letter #2009-40

To: Local Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Certified Food Inspectors

From: Tracey Weeks, MS, RS; Food Protection Program

Date: July 1, 2009

Subject: **Voluntary Recall of Fresh Tuna Steaks Sold in Retail Stores Throughout New England**

North Coast Seafood of South Boston, MA is issuing a voluntary recall of fresh tuna steaks sold at **Shaw's, Star Market, and Big Y** grocery stores because of possible elevated levels of histamine. North Coast Seafood is advising consumers to avoid consumption of this product. Consumers who may have purchased the tuna steaks and still have them in their freezer, should return them to the store for a full refund or replacement.

Symptoms of scombroid poisoning include tingling or burning sensation in the mouth, rash on the face, neck, and upper body, hives, itching of skin, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and severe headache. Every individual reacts differently to histamine and may experience some or all symptoms.

At this time, no other fish or seafood sold by North Coast Seafood is included with this voluntary recall.

You are urged to share the above information with retail establishments in your jurisdiction that are likely to have the recalled products, as well as any foodservice establishments that may have purchased the fish from grocery stores for use in the restaurant.

The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) has indicated they are aware of the recall and have contacted the stores. Questions regarding distribution can be directed to DCP at 860-713-6160.

Individuals who contact the local health departments and have a history of consuming the recalled tuna steaks should be referred to their Primary Care Physician for evaluation and follow-up. Consumers who have questions or concerns about the recall may contact North Coast Seafood at 617-345-4410 ext 260.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, MS, Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH
Ellen Blaschinski, R.S., M.B.A., Chief, Regulatory Services Branch
William Gerrish, Office of Planning and Communications, DPH

410 CAPITOL AVENUE, MS#11FDP

PO BOX 340308, HARTFORD, CT 06134

Bus: 860.509.7297

Fax: 860.509.8071

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer