



24 December 2011

William Jones
Director Division of Seafood Safety
CFSAN
5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park
MD 20740
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Dr Jones

RE: TALLEY'S VOLUNTARY RECALL OF GREENSHELL MUSSEL MEAT AND HALF SHELL MUSSELS

MAF have been advised by New Zealand exporter Talleys Group Ltd that they are undertaking a voluntary recall on Greenshell Mussels packed at Talleys Group Ltd, Blenheim (premises number PH159).

Product packed on and after 3 November 2011 may be affected by an issue which has resulted in sampled product having abnormally high generic *Escherichia coli* numbers. New Zealand uses generic *E. coli* as an indicator of hygiene of processing. In this case the high *E. coli* numbers has raised doubts about the suitability of the product for its intended use.

MAF is not aware of any food safety issues that have resulted from the consumption of the affected product.

Talleys Group Ltd have notified their customers in your country and requested that affected product is isolated and, if in stock, returned to New Zealand. Talley Group Ltd has also advised their customers to notify and discuss this voluntary recall with their contact in FDA to establish if any further action is required. It is MAF policy to also directly notify our official counterparts.

The following product has been exported to your country:

Importer	Port	Product description and quantity	ETA	Health certificate number
TM Tobin Co	Oakland, CA	500 cartons Mussels half shell	7 Dec 2011	NZL2011/FEL103/3171
Colorado Boxed Beef Company	Lakeland, FL	1650 cartons mussels half shell	22 Dec 2011	NZL2011/FEL103/3367
Quirch Foods Company	Miami, FL	1750 cartons mussels half shell	14 Dec 2011	NZL2011/FEL103/3311
Affco USA Inc	Philadelphia, PA	1700 cartons mussels half shell	27 Dec 2011	NZL2011/FEL103/3313
Seabreeze Seafoods International	Long Beach, CA	390 cartons mussels half shell	30 Dec 2011	NZL2011/FEL103/3371

Attached are copies of the export health certificates.



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Product remaining in stock in New Zealand is on hold awaiting further analysis. MAF is working with Talleys Group Ltd to ensure appropriate steps are taken to correct and prevent future non-compliance of this nature.

If you have any questions or require any further information please feel free to contact either Neil McLeod (neil.mcleod@maf.govt.nz) or myself (janine.collier@maf.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Dr Janine Collier

**Market Access Counsellor
MAF Standards Branch**

Cc: Melissa Ellwanger, CFSAN FDA
Paul DiStefano, CFSAN FDA
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Jason Frost, New Zealand Embassy, Washington DC
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