

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Hong Kong Lifts Ban on Oysters from Samish Bay in Washington State

Country: Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Report Category: Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News, Export Accomplishments - Market Access

Prepared By: Caroline Yuen

Approved By: Jennifer Clever

Report Highlights:

Effective November 12, 2021, ready-to-eat oysters harvested from Samish Bay in Washington State are once again eligible for export to Hong Kong following a ban imposed on July 2021. Joint efforts by ATO Hong Kong and the State of Washington's Department of Health successfully restored U.S. trade to Hong Kong valued at \$3.5 million.

Effective November 12, 2021, U.S. growers in Samish Bay, Washington, will once again be able to ship ready-to-eat oysters to the Hong Kong market. The Hong Kong government imposed a ban on U.S. shipments in July 2021 following a U.S. closure and recall of oysters shipped from the area citing bacterial concerns. When environmental conditions improved and Washington state health authorities re-opened the growing area on October 1, the Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) worked on their behalf to engage Hong Kong officials to lift the ban. This collaborative effort re-opened U.S. trade to Hong Kong valued at \$3.5 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

According to the Hong Kong food safety authority's established practice, they will "hold and test" for the first three shipments and "release and test" for another three shipments. Assuming all test results are fine, trade will resume as normal.

The United States is the fourth largest supplier of fresh/chilled/frozen oysters to Hong Kong. During the first nine months of 2021, Hong Kong imported \$3.3 million worth of oysters from the United States, a rise of 9 percent compared to the same period last year. However, the U.S. market share dropped slightly from 11 percent to 9 percent during the same period between 2020-21. The temporary trade suspension partly accounts for the drop in U.S. market share. France is the largest supplier with a market share of 25 percent with exports valued at \$9 million for the first nine months in 2021.

Attachments:

No Attachments.