



Q & A about Radiation Safety of Seafood from the North Pacific Ocean.

Updated May 5, 2011

Is the seafood harvested from the North Pacific Ocean safe from radiation from the nuclear reactors in Japan?

YES. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has declared that *“Seafood from the United States waters of the North Pacific is safe to eat”* based on current information. The FDA explains that *“The great quantity of water in the Pacific Ocean rapidly and effectively dilutes radioactive material, so fish and seafood are likely to be unaffected.”*

Are US agencies working together to be certain the seafood supply is safe from radiation?

YES. On May 3, 2011, NOAA, FDA and EPA released a new fact sheet to help explain US radiation monitoring efforts and the control measures in place to assure the safety of seafood products in the U.S. marketplace or exported U.S. seafood products.

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mediacenter/docs/2011/may/seafoodsafetyfactsheet_03may2011.pdf

Is the Hawaii Seafood and Fishing industry doing anything to be certain the Hawaii Seafood products are safe in terms of radiation?

YES. Hawaii’s fishing and seafood industry are taking the responsible action to be sure Hawaii Seafood remains safe. The methods and equipment needed to determine the radiation safety of food is highly sophisticated and requires special technical expertise. For this reason, the industry must defer to the FDA, the competent authority, to monitor seafood safety. The industry is keeping up-to-date with information from the FDA available at

www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm247403.htm