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Incidence of *Listeria* spp. and indicator microorganisms of sanitation in trout processing plants

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Seafood plant sanitation is needed for ensuring safety and quality of the products manufactured. Many microorganisms are used as sanitation indicators in food processing plants: Total or aerobic plate counts (APC), total (TCC) and/or fecal coliforms, and *Escherichia coli* are the most common ones. Some other indicator microorganisms reported for trout (*Ictalurus punctatus*) processing plants are *Pseudomonas* and *Aeromonas*. *Listeria* (LIS) and *Listeria monocytogenes* are microorganisms with high prevalence in seafood, including trout products and processing environment. These species could be used as indicators of plant sanitation. The incidence of *Listeria* in live trout is very low, thus the presence of this organism in food processing plants may indicate inadequate sanitation practices. The objectives of this project were to investigate the incidence of *Listeria* spp. and *Listeria monocytogenes* in trout fish processing plants environment and products so as to identify possible points for sanitation. Samples of trout pond water, sediment, and live fish, as well as products, food contact, and non-contact surfaces in processing plants were sampled and tested for indicator organisms and *Listeria*. Results show that selected sites are high in APC, TCC, and LIS during pre-op.

Biography

Ershad Sheibani has received his PhD and MBA degrees from Virginia Tech, USA. He is currently a Project Manager-Product Developer at the National Nutrition and Food Technology Institute (NNFIT) and working as an Adjunct faculty of Food Science in the Department of Food Science at the Shahid Beheshti University in Iran. Previously, he worked as a R&D Scientist at J R Simplot Company, USA. He is an author of *Sweet Potato: Preharvest and Postharvest Treatment and Evaluation* (ISBN-10: 3659128597). He has received many prestigious awards including The Society of Flavor Chemists Fellowship in 2013 and Institute of Food Technologists Feeding Tomorrow Scholarship in 2012.

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