

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 121-12 (Adopted October 15, 2012)

Title: Monitoring Radiation from Fukushima in Seafood

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Introduced by Robert Gould, MD

Whereas, the 2011 meltdown of the nuclear reactors in Fukushima Japan, has been associated with substantive and ongoing release into the Pacific Ocean of radioactively-contaminated sea water used to cool the cores; (1)(2) and

Whereas, the April 2012 Congressional Research Service report "Effects of Radiation from Fukushima Dai-ichi on the U.S. Marine Environment" summarizes that "barring another unanticipated release, radioactive contaminants from Fukushima Dai-ichi should be sufficiently dispersed over time that they will not prove to be a serious health threat elsewhere, unless they bioaccumulate in migratory fish or find their way directly to another part of the world through food or other commercial products"; (3) and

Whereas, it is known that tuna and other edible fish regularly migrate through marine regions radioactively contaminated from Fukushima; (4) and,

Whereas every bluefin tuna caught off San Diego in an August 2011 study demonstrated elevated amounts of Cesium 134 and 137, which are considered characteristic isotopic markers for Fukushima-derived radiation; (5) and,

Whereas, representatives of the North American fishing industry have stated publicly that they have been promised by, and are relying on governments to test Pacific salmon, especially given findings of radioactively contaminated waters and fish caught off Japan, and documented continued radioactive contamination of water; (2)(6)(7)(8) and

Whereas, there are no published federal plans to monitor the radioactive safety for consumption of Pacific migratory fish, nor any such plans to do so by appropriate agencies such as the FDA, EPA, NRC or CDC; therefore,

RESOLVED: That CMA call for the United States government to continue to monitor and fully report the radioactivity levels of edible Pacific Ocean species sold in the

United States that could reasonably have been exposed to radiation from the ongoing 2011 Fukushima disaster, with information about any potential health implications of consuming such foods; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred for national action.

References:

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3. Buck EH and Upton HS. Effects of radiation from Fukushima Dai-ichi on the U.S. marine environment. Congressional Research Service. April 2, 2012. Available at: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41751.pdf>. Accessed August 13, 2012.
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7. Pablo C. Federal government not testing west coast salmon for Fukushima radiation. *The Georgia Strait*. April 18, 2012. Available at: <http://www.straight.com/article-663186/vancouver/feds-not-testing-salmon-radiation>. Accessed August 13, 2012.
8. Tabuchi H. Fears accompanying fishermen in Japanese disaster region. *New York Times*. June 26, 2012. Available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/26/world/asia/fears-accompany-fishermen-in-japan>

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