

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

APRIL 24, 2012

**MISLABELED SEAFOOD SOLD IN RESTAURANTS AND GROCERY STORES**

Recently, a non-profit organization ran tests on seafood sold at sushi bars and grocery stores, and found that more than 50% was not labeled correctly. The U. S. Food and Drug Administration prohibits species substitution; however, the incidence of this practice continues to grow. In addition, as a result of several stories last year on fish mislabeling, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health conducted a survey of a select number of wholesale processors and retail markets. Similar to the other reports, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health found that the majority of the seafood had a number of labeling violations.

Consumers should have confidence that the fish they are buying at restaurants and grocery stores is safe and labeled correctly.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Health to:

- 1) Contact Federal and State agencies responsible for the inspection of imported fish and identify gaps in local import inspections that may be strengthened through collaborative agency efforts. This should include an assessment of the feasibility of Los Angeles County Public Health’s use of the FDA’s specialized laboratories for testing local samples of imported fish as needed; and
- 2) Report back in 15 days on actions that are being taken, as well as additional actions that can be taken by County, State and Federal agencies, to address fraudulent and unsafe wholesale and retail practices.

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RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

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