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NF94-166 *Aeromonas hydrophilia*

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Aeromonas hydrophilia

By Susan S. Sumner, Extension Food Microbiologist
Julie A. Albrecht, Extension Food Specialist

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- The Disease:** Since 1968, *Aeromonas hydrophilia* has been recognized as an opportunistic pathogen in immunocompromised hosts (patients on drug therapy, elderly, young). More recently it has been demonstrated to cause enteritis in normal hosts. *A. hydrophilia* can cause symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea.
- The Organism:** *A. hydrophilia* can produce an enterotoxin similar to cholera toxin, and some strains also produce cytotoxins.
- Sources:** *Aeromonas hydrophilia* are found widely in fresh and brackish waters and may be present in the stools of healthy individuals. *A. hydrophilia* are usually transmitted through drinking contaminated water, but may also be transmitted in foods that contact contaminated water.
- Control:** *A. hydrophilia* is controlled using clean water and thoroughly cooking foods.
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