

**ISSC 2013 Biennial Meeting
January 25 – January 31, 2014 – San Antonio, Texas
Committee Report**

Committee Name : Biotoxin

Chairperson: Keith Skiles

Date of Meeting: 1/27/2014

Recorder: K Skiles

Printed Name: Keith Skiles

Committee Members Present:

Keith Skiles	Michael Bott	Darcie Couture
Carol Dorsey	William Hastback	Gary Heideman
Eric Hickey	Peter Jensen	Jeff Kennedy
Amanda Lowrey	Alex Manderson	Leonora Porter
George Scanlan	Alison Sirois	Valerie Wunderly
Calvin Walker	Stacey Degrasse	

Committee Members Absent:

Mike Hickey	Joanne Leger	Bill Mahan
Rick Porso	Debbie Rouse	Angela Ruple
Paula Scott	David Wallace	Joel Hansel

Charges

Charge 1: Continue providing guidance and recommendations to the ISSC Executive Board concerning Biotoxin issues

Findings:

China recently suspended all imports of geoducks from “area 67” due to samples that exceed China’s PSP standard. Area 67 is a very large area of the Pacific coast that extends from northern California to Alaska.

Conclusions:

FDA reviewed the information provided by China and responded with a number of questions regarding the standard being applied and the analytical method used. No response had been provided until earlier today. Calvin Walker of NOAA provided a summary of the response, and the committee expressed interest in receiving copies of the full report. NOAA and FDA stated that they would be working together in communication with the affected states to develop a response to the concerns expressed by China.

Recommendations:

Distribute copies of the referenced communication to the Biotoxin Committee members and other interested parties. Support the continuing efforts of NOAA and FDA to resolve their concerns and lift the ban.

Charge 1: Continue

Findings:

There is an increasing need for laboratory methods in support of biotoxin efforts, and it is becoming difficult for labs interested in validating methods due to a limited supply of biotoxin material to analyze.

Conclusions:

Programs that experience biotoxin events are encouraged to archive samples and make it available to laboratories working on method development and validation.

Recommendations:

The committee recommends that the ISSC contact state programs and analytical labs with access to biotoxin samples to express the need for archived sample material to be used for method development and validation.

Additional Information: