

Committee Report

Committee Name : Biotoxin
Chairperson: Darcie Couture
Date of Meeting: 10/25/15
Recorder: Darcie Couture

Approved By: _____
Printed Name:

Committee Members Present:

Couture, Darcie (Chairperson)

Bott, Michael

Brohawn, Kathy

Dorsey, Carol

Dorth, Quay

Dragan, Alissa

Fleiger, Jill

Forester, Matthew

Friedman, Bruce

Haines, Andy

Heideman, Gary

Hickey, Eric

Hickey, Mike

Lankford, Shelley

Johnson, Laura

Porter, Leonora

Scanlan, George

Sim, Jim

Sirois, Alison

Skiles, Keith

Taylor, Diani

White, John

Lassiter, Cheryl (EPA Delegate)

Degrassie, Stacey (FDA Delegate)

Bell, John (NOAA Delegate)

Charges

Charge 1: Proposal 13-116: Shellfish Quarantine Guidance Document

Findings & Conclusions: During conference calls following the 2013 Biennial Meeting, the Biotoxin Committee discussed the content of this proposal and determined that we did not have clear authority in the Model Ordinance to take action on this proposal; a subcommittee was convened to draft language that could be used as recommendations by the Biotoxin Committee to amend the proposal. New language from the subcommittee was reviewed by the Biotoxin Committee during a conference call on October 14, 2015.

Recommendations: Biotoxin Committee recommends Task Force I accept our recommendation to amend proposal 13-116 by striking all existing language and replacing with the language in the attached document, which will be inserted in Chapter IV @ .04 A 4.

Should the above amended proposal be adopted by the conference, then the Biotoxin Committee should develop a Guidance Document that includes guidance for development of end-product testing programs to address biotoxins in closed state waters.

Charge 2: Continue providing guidance and recommendations to the ISSC Executive Board concerning Biotoxin issues.

Findings & Conclusions: See combined comments for Charges 2 and 3 below.

Charge 3: Identify new laboratory methods and technologies that could enhance the ability of the NSSP in addressing Biotoxin issues associated with shellfish consumption

Findings & Conclusions: At the October 25, 2015 meeting of the Biotoxin Committee, Stacey DeGrasse provided the committee with information that the Lab Methods Review Committee had established several workgroups to discuss and establish priorities to improve shellfish monitoring for HAB toxins. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to allow Quay Dortch to circulate a copy of the LMRC draft findings, for review by the Biotoxin Committee. The Biotoxin Committee recognizes this as an important step in maximizing efforts and successes in addressing issues that cross-cut through several different committees at the Conference.

Recommendations: No recommendations

Recommendation 1:

Modify the language in Chapter IV @.04 A 4 as:

(4) The plan may include agreements or memoranda of understanding, between the Authority and individual shellfish harvesters or individual shellfish dealers, to allow harvesting in designated parts of a state growing area while other parts of ~~the same~~ the growing area are placed in the closed status. Such controlled harvesting shall be conducted with strict assurances of safety. In state growing areas or designated portions of state growing waters that are closed, the authority may allow for harvesting if an end product testing program is developed and, such as by batch release of shellfish lots only after samples of each lot are tested and found to be below the action levels specified in Section C.

The program must include at a minimum:

- i. Establishment of appropriate pre-harvest screening levels;
- ii. Establishment of appropriate screening and end product testing methods;
- iii. Establishment of appropriate laboratories/analysts to conduct screening and end product testing methods;
- iv. Establishment of representative sampling plan for both i. and ii. above; and
- v. Other controls as necessary to ensure that shellstock are not released prior to meeting all requirements of the program.

Recommendation 2:

Should the modification above be adopted the Biotoxin Committee will develop a Guidance Document that includes guidance for development of end product testing programs to address biotoxins in closed state waters.