

**ISSC 2017  
Committee Report**

**Committee Name :** Biotoxin  
**Chairperson:** Darcie Couture  
**Date of Meeting:** 10/15/2017  
**Recorder:** Cheryl Lassiter

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name:**

**Committee Members Present:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darcie Couture (Chairperson)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrew Haines	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Heideman	(NOAA Delegate)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Bott	<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Hickey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Merrit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Lassiter (NOAA Advisor)
<input type="checkbox"/> Judy Dowell	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Hickey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Scanlan	<input type="checkbox"/> Maggie Broadwater (NOAA Advisor)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jill Fleiger	<input type="checkbox"/> Ian Jefferds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joel Hansel (EPA Delegate)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leanne Flewelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Kennedy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey Degrasse (FDA Delegate)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Forester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelley Lankford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quay Dortch	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Friedman		

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**Charges**

**Charge 1: Develop a Guidance Document for Marine Biotoxin Contingency Plans that includes guidance for development of end-product testing programs to address biotoxins in closed state waters**

Findings/Conclusions: We discussed Charge 1 and Charge 2 together, and determined that based on the results of Charge 2, there are much broader issues of concern, above and beyond the narrow scope of Marine Biotoxin Contingency Plans and end-product testing.

Recommendations: Due to the broad, all-encompassing nature of the details documented in the inconsistencies in current state practices and the NSSP Guidance Document in Charge 2, we recommend that a more comprehensive review of the overall design and practices of state Marine Biotoxin Programs is appropriate, prior to jumping to the narrow discussion of end-product testing.

**Charge 2: Assess Biotoxin testing inconsistencies in current state practices and the NSSP Guidance Document**

Findings/Conclusions: A Biotoxin Workshop was held on March 14 – 15, 2017 in Washington D.C., which was attended by representatives of many of the state Authorities that deal with biotoxin issues, and detailed information was collected at this meeting regarding the details of current state practices and experiences. A summary report of this meeting was provided to Biotoxin Committee members for review prior to the Conference, and the general consensus was that this workshop and the report generated following the workshop clearly identified Biotoxin testing inconsistencies in current state practices and the NSSP Guidance Document.

Recommendations: This charge has been fully addressed by the workshop and the summary report.

**Charge 3: Continue providing guidance and recommendations to the ISSC Executive Board concerning Biotoxin issues.**

Findings/Conclusions: Discussion of Charge 1 and Charge 2 revealed chronic, large-scale, ongoing inconsistencies in the Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Programs.

Recommendations: The Biotoxin Committee would like to request that the Executive Board consider expanding the charges of the Committee to now include a more complete review/discussion of the inconsistent nature of Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Programs, which may include but not be limited to development of recommendations that would create a consistent foundation of basic components to be used across all state programs, which will assure minimal compliance with the requirements currently suggested in the NSSP regarding marine biotoxins, but still allow the necessary flexibility that may be required on a state-by-state basis. The end-goal of the work would be to generate a proposal that would clearly identify these criteria and/or minimum requirements for a Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program. Given the potentially overwhelming scope of this work, we would also request that the Executive Board determine if additional workshops or other meetings might be required to address this issue, and allow the Biotoxin Committee to operate as a standing committee in order to continue to work on this issue between biennial conferences.

**Charge 4: Continue to identify new laboratory methods and technologies that could enhance the ability of the NSSP in addressing Biotoxin issues associated with shellfish consumption**

Findings/Conclusions: There are several biotoxin related laboratory methods currently under review by the LMRC, and new pre-proposals are consistently entering the system as well.

Recommendations: The ISSC members should continue to dialogue with researchers and private industry as opportunities arise, to encourage submission of promising new methods or existing method matrix expansions to the Conference for consideration.