

## **Sampling Protocols: Standard Operational Practice (SOP) for Collection and Shipping of Shellfish for PSP Testing.**

This SOP provides the procedure to be used when collecting shellfish for PSP testing. The collection practices apply to preparing shellfish for shipment. Shipping procedures apply only to samples that are freighted or mailed to another location (e.g. Anchorage or Dutch Harbor). The data sheet (**PSP TESTING DATA ENTRY SHEET**) accompanying this SOP must be completed and placed in the plastic storage bag with the shellfish at the time the shellfish are collected.

### **Collection Procedure**

1. Fill out the collection portion of the data sheet.
2. Harvest shellfish as follows:
  - a. The general rule is that you will need at least 150 grams of drained tissue weight (about 2/3 cup) of meat to conduct the PSP test. **Include a shell with each sample to confirm ID. These shell samples can be examined by the QC person regularly to confirm that ID is correct.**
  - b. Blue mussels – 30 shucked mussels per sample.
  - c. Butter clams - If they are greater than 3” in size 5 shucked clams per sample. If they are less than 2” in size at least 10.
3. Be sure the data sheet is completed after sampling.
4. Place sample into zip-lock bag along with the data sheet.

### **PSP TESTING DATA ENTRY SHEET**

The data is entered on the following table and placed in the bag with the sample and frozen.

Location (Town, village etc) sample collected \_\_\_\_\_  
Sampler's name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date sample collected \_\_\_\_\_  
Species \_\_\_\_\_

### **Instructions for Completing the Data Sheet**

- **Location** – This is site location by town, island, village name, or other appropriate identifying location name.
- **Your Name** – This is the name of the person who collected the sample.
- **Date Collected** – This is the date the sample was actually collected from the beach.
- **Species** – Shellfish species being tested.

### **Appendix B. Standard Operational Practice (SOP) for Storage of Shellfish for PSP Testing.**

This SOP provides the procedure to be used when storing shellfish for PSP testing.

### **Storage Procedure**

- Freeze samples (shucked clams or mussels) in plastic ziplock bag prior to shipping)
- Freezing does not affect the PSP results.
- Freezing may cause the shellfish to gap open, making them easier to shuck and test.
- The maximum storage time should be less than 1 month but as long as it takes to freeze the sample, usually overnight.
- Make sure you have included the PSP TESTING DATA ENTRY SHEET (see Appendix A.) in the Ziplock with the sample (clams/mussels).