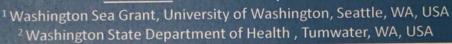
Historical Marine Biotoxin Trends in Washington State

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Introduction

and manages for three marine biotoxins found in Washington State shellfish: Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP), Amnesic Shellfish Poison (ASP) and Diarrhetic Shellfish Poison (DSP). WDOH has placed mussel cages at strategic sites to be used as a sentinel biotoxin detection system. Samples are collected bi-weekly (yearly or seasonally) and sent for testing to the public health lab. When toxins are present, sampling frequency is increased to weekly and other Molluscan shellfish species are tested. Data is collected and entered into a database which currently has more than 101,000 entries.

Biotoxin	% waterbodies impacted
PSP	89.5%
ASP	7.6%
DSP	21.0%



Objective

low have closures changed over time in Washington State? Are they becoming more frequent, longer, or earlier in the year?

Methods

determined closure dates for each county and waterbody using established regulatory limits for mussels only. Mussel data was used to determine all closures, except on the Pacific Coast where razor clams was used (there is no recreational harvest of molluscan shellfish on the Pacific Coast other than razor clams).





