

# VOLUNTEER MARINE BIOTOXIN PROGRAM PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING SHELLFISH SAMPLES

## **To collect a sample:**

1. Shellfish must be **alive and unbroken** in the shell.
2. Collect the minimum for **ONE** of the varieties listed (whichever is easiest to find at the beach you are monitoring). **Remember: have your Scientific Collection Permit with you when collecting.**
3. The laboratory needs a minimum amount of 250 grams of shellfish meat to assure an accurate result—those amounts vary for each variety and are approximated below:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Approx. #</u>	<u>Min. Size:</u>
Butter Clams	12	1 1/2"
Littleneck/Manila	35-45	1 1/2"
Horse Clam	4-6	—
Oysters	12	2 1/2"
Blue Mussel	25-80 (1/3 bag)	1"
Soft Shell	15-25	—
Cockles	20	1 1/2"
Purple Varnish	60-80	—



4. Fill out the Shellfish Collection Form (date of collection/beach/your name) and place in a small Ziploc bag, place the protected form inside your collected shellfish bag. This is the only way shellfish can be tracked and management decisions made. If we don't know where a sample came from, the data can't be used in closing or re-opening shellfish beds.

## **Drop Off Instructions:**

- Deliver shellfish with the completed collection form to Skagit County Public Health, located at **301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 110, Mount Vernon** **\*new location\***
- Sign the "Grants In-Kind Accounting Form" at the front desk when you drop your samples off. Record all of your team mates names for L&I coverage purposes.
- **If there will be more than a 2 hour delay between collecting the samples and delivering to Skagit County Public Health, keep samples on ice in a cooler.**
- If you collect on a weekend and need to keep samples **overnight** before delivering to the County Health Department, remember to keep samples refrigerated (**try to collect samples on a Sunday rather than a Saturday so you only have to refrigerate them for one night**). **Again, do not rinse or store your sample in fresh water.**

## **Very Important Note:**

Samples must be delivered **between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. MONDAY through WEDNESDAY. If necessary, you can drop them off by 9 am on THURSDAYS.** This schedule ensures that samples are shipped to the lab quickly and efficiently while the shellfish are still in good condition.

This means that collection of shellfish should ideally occur Sunday-Thursday morning weekly. If your best low tide is on a Friday afternoon— we can't make a management decision with those shellfish.

If you have a problem delivering samples to Public Health during those hours, please contact Carla Glassman, Skagit Conservation District, (360) 428-4313 ext. 1025, to arrange for pick up.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Carla Glassman, Skagit Conservation District 360-708-2360.

Questions related to collection drop off can be directed to Skagit County Public Health, at (360) 416-1500.

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## New Location Directions



### Directions to Skagit County Public Health \*new location\*

Heading either North or South on I-5, take the East College Way Exit # 227. Head East on E College Way. Turn right on to Riverside Drive. At the light, turn right on to Roosevelt Avenue. In approximately 500 feet, Skagit County Public Health building and parking will be on the left..