



Surveillance and Monitoring for Shellfish Safety

CEFAS has extensive experience in effective management strategies for ensuring the safety of shellfish sold to the consumer. We provide a comprehensive consultancy, assessment and training service to customers worldwide.



ESTABLISHING AND MANAGING CONTAMINANT
MONITORING PROGRAMMES

ADVICE ON STATUTORY TESTING
PROTOCOLS AND METHODS

MICROBIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL, RADIOLOGICAL
AND BIOTOXIN CONTAMINANT ANALYSIS

EU IMPORT AND EXPORT CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

ADVICE ON INVESTIGATION AND CONTROL
OF CONTAMINATION SOURCES

ADVICE ON PURIFICATION PLANT
OPERATION AND CONTROL

Contamination of shellfish poses public health risks

Shellfish, and in particular the filter-feeding bivalves, can be contaminated by micro-organisms, chemicals and other

contaminants from industrial and sewage pollution, and with naturally occurring algal toxins. Consumption of such contaminated shellfish can pose a public health risk.

Minimising the risks with effective shellfish management strategies

CEFAS offers a comprehensive technical consultancy service addressing all aspects of shellfish contaminant management. We can help minimise risks by advising on:

- effective monitoring of contaminant levels
- identifying sources of contamination
- technical and statutory measures to reduce contamination

Experience and expertise

CEFAS has over 50 years experience in the technical and legislative control measures for managing human health risks from contaminated shellfish.

As part of the Competent Authority arrangements for England and Wales we have extensive practical experience in all aspects of shellfish hygiene controls and in particular the EU Shellfish Hygiene Directive (91/492/EEC).

Advice and consultancy

We can assist with

- implementing harvesting area monitoring programmes
- protocols and methodologies for analysis of contaminants, data interpretation and certification
- monitoring programme management strategies using database and geographic information systems (GIS)
- optimising purification plant operation and controls

Training

CEFAS offers training in all aspects of shellfish hygiene management tailored to meet your needs.

- statutory aspects of shellfish hygiene
- how to set-up and maintain a monitoring programme
- effective operation of shellfish depuration plants
- laboratory techniques for testing shellfish for statutory purposes



Microbiological examination

We can advise on or undertake:

- standard statutory testing for faecal indicator organisms, such as *E. coli*, and for *Salmonella*
- tests for indicators of viral contamination
- investigative tests for human pathogenic viruses such as those causing gastro-enteritis

Radionuclide, organic and inorganic contaminant analysis and monitoring

CEFAS can also undertake analysis or advise on monitoring for a range of other contaminants in fish and shellfish.

We have expertise in

- a suite of analytical and bioassay techniques for the determination of organic and inorganic chemical contaminants
- monitoring and detection of toxic algae in water and algal toxins (biotoxins) in fish and shellfish
- critical group identification, consumption habit surveys, analysis for radionuclides and compliance assessments

For further information about any of our services or to discuss your needs with one of our specialists please contact

