

Wildlife Algal toxin Research and Response Network (WARRN-West)

Contact: Elizabeth Frame

NOAA/NWFSC

Sample collection and submission protocol

A. Sample material of interest:

1. feces
2. urine
3. stomach contents
4. milk (if possible)
5. blood/serum (if animal is fresh)

B. Sample collection procedures:

1. Fill tube with sample (plastic screw-top tubes are preferred, but Whirl-Pak baggies can be used as well). If sample is limited, as little as 1 gram or 1 ml can be analyzed but 4g or 4ml is preferred for the standard protocol.
2. Label the tube with your own animal ID# followed by animal type (i.e. sea lion) and sample material (feces etc.) and date. Please use a water proof ink and label so that these identifiers are not compromised.
3. Place tube in plastic Ziploc bag and label bag with the same information given on the sample tube (ID#, animal, material, date).
4. Store as soon as possible in a freezer at -20°C or below. Do not allow samples to thaw during storage.

C. Submission of samples for algal toxin analysis:

1. **Fill out the log sheet for the sample set** (request an electronic version of the log sheet from Elizabeth Frame at Elizabeth.Frame@noaa.gov). Print out a hard copy of the log sheet, place it in a clean Ziploc bag, and include it with the samples (i.e. put the log sheet in its own Ziploc bag to prevent it from getting wet, mushy, and faded), then place it in the bag/box with the sample tubes.
2. Ship samples overnight mail, frozen (dry ice preferred, but ice packs are okay) to:

Attention: Elizabeth Frame
NOAA Fisheries/EC Division
2725 Montlake Blvd. East
Seattle, WA 98112

Please label box with “Freeze immediately upon arrival”

Please call (206) 302-2402 or email before shipping

3. In addition to the hard copy, please send an electronic version of the log sheet for your sample set to Elizabeth.Frame@noaa.gov
4. Results will be added to this electronic data sheet and returned by email.

D. Special requirements for samples:

1. Collect samples from freshly dead carcasses as soon as possible. If significant decomposition has occurred, note this on the sample labels and logsheet.
2. Please indicate if you have reason to suspect domoic acid or paralytic shellfish poisoning.

E. To request a sampling kit:

1. Email a kit request to Elizabeth.Frame@noaa.gov or call Elizabeth Frame at (206) 302-2402.
2. Please indicate how many samples you anticipate shipping to us in a year (this allows us to gauge kit size). If you encounter more animals than expected, we will happily send additional sampling kits on request.
3. Kit will include: 15ml and 50ml plastic screw-top Falcon tubes, data labels, Ziploc bags, labeling pen and log sheets. (blood spot cards are also available upon request)