


VOLUNTEER MARINE BIOTOXIN PROGRAM PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING SHELLFISH SAMPLES

To submit a sample:

1. The clams, mussels or oysters must be **alive and unbroken** in the shell.
 2. Collect the minimum (if possible) for **ONE of the varieties listed below** (whichever species is most abundant and easiest to find at the beach you are monitoring). Samples may be rinsed. Do NOT hold your samples in water. **Remember to have your Scientific Collection Permit with you when collecting samples.**
 3. The laboratory needs a minimum amount of shellfish to assure an accurate result—those amounts vary for each variety:

		<u>Minimum Size:</u>
Butter Clams	12	1 1/2"
Littleneck/Manila	35-45	1 1/2"
Horse Clam	4-6	No Minimum
Oysters	12	2 1/2"
Blue Mussel	25-80 (1/3 bag)	No Minimum
Soft Shell	15-25	No Minimum
Cockles	20	1 1/2"
Purple Varnish	60-80	No Minimum
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4. Fill out the Shellfish Collection Form using black or blue ink (date of collection/beach/your name).
 5. Deliver shellfish with the completed collection form to the **Skagit County Health Department**, located at **700 S. 2nd Street, Mount Vernon (3rd Floor)**. Make sure you include a record of where and when your shellfish were collected. Also, please sign the "Grants In-Kind Accounting Form" which will be at the County Health Department when you drop your samples off.
 6. **If there will be more than a 2 hour delay between collecting the samples and delivering to the Skagit County Health Department, keep samples on ice in a cooler.**
 7. 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 store your sample in water.**

Please Note:

Samples need to be delivered to the Skagit County Health Department **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 don't sit in a cooler for too long and are shipped to the lab quickly and efficiently. If you have a problem delivering samples to the Health Department during those hours, please contact Carla Glassman, Skagit Conservation District (360) 428-4313 Ext. 1025, to arrange for pick up.

Directions to the Skagit County Health Department

Heading either north or south on I-5, take the **Kincaid Street exit# 226**. **Head west on Kincaid to S. 2nd Street (or 3rd Street) and turn right for parking.** The Skagit County Health Department is on the **3rd Floor**.

Drop Off Instructions:

Go to 3rd floor of building. Approach the front counter, someone will come out to take samples from you and have you sign the "in kind" reporting sheet, including names of all your team mates (for L&I coverage purposes). Follow County Health covid guidelines that may be in place (they will be posted on the doors)

QUESTIONS? Contact Carla Glassman, Skagit Conservation District (360) 428-4313 Ext. 1025. Questions related to collection drop off can be directed to Samantha Russell, Skagit County Health Department/, at (360) 416-1566.