



# DG Health and Food Safety

## Directorate (F) Health and Food

### Audits and Analysis

## FREQUENT OFFICIAL CONTROL DIFFICULTIES

World Seafood Congress 2023, Peniche, Portugal

*Vasco ANTUNES, Unit F2 Animals*

# SANTE Directorate F – Unit 2



DG Health and  
Food Safety

Health and food audits  
and analysis programme  
2023

Health and  
Food Safety



# Overview report

Four Member States produce more than 80% of the EU total (France, Spain, Italy and Greece), mostly from aquaculture.

In many of the Member States monitoring of production areas for microbiological quality is in line with the relevant EU requirements.

Monitoring of classified production areas for biotoxins is often not in line with EU requirements, mostly as regards the frequency and type of biotoxins tested.



DG Health and  
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OVERVIEW REPORT  
**Official controls on  
the production and  
harvesting of live  
bivalve molluscs for  
human consumption in  
the European Union**

Health and  
Food Safety

# Recent Commission audits



## of Member States

Bulgaria 2023-7740

Spain 2021-7254

Denmark 2021-7253

Croatia 2021-7255

Portugal 2020-7119

## of non-EU countries

South Africa 2023-7730

Türkiye 2023-7900

Jamaica 2023-7749

Peru 2022-7513

United States 2022-7544

Tunisia 2022-7516

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# Frequent/Main official control difficulties

- Sanitary surveys
- Sampling for monitoring
- Ensuring the sampling performed **is** representative
- Control laboratories testing for marine biotoxins
- Supervision of control laboratories
- ... cost!

# Frequent/Main official control difficulties



- Sanitary surveys
  - Incomplete geographically and/or in coverage.
  - Incomplete report: recommendations.
  - Periodically review

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/biosafety\\_fh\\_guidance\\_community\\_guide\\_bivalve\\_mollusc\\_monitoring\\_en.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/biosafety_fh_guidance_community_guide_bivalve_mollusc_monitoring_en.pdf)

# Frequent/Main official control difficulties



- Sampling for monitoring
  - Vessels available
  - Weather conditions
  - Training of samplers
  - Timely delivery to testing laboratories

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/biosafety\\_fh\\_guidance\\_community\\_guide\\_bivalve\\_mollusc\\_monitoring\\_en.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/biosafety_fh_guidance_community_guide_bivalve_mollusc_monitoring_en.pdf)



# Frequent/Main official control difficulties



- Ensuring the sampling performed is representative
  - sampling point location, for *E. coli*
  - sampling frequency, for biotoxins monitoring
  - sampling location and representing the whole water column, for phytoplankton monitoring

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/biosafety\\_fh\\_guidance\\_community\\_guide\\_bivalve\\_mollusc\\_monitoring\\_en.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/biosafety_fh_guidance_community_guide_bivalve_mollusc_monitoring_en.pdf)

[https://www.aesan.gob.es/en/CRLMB/docs/docs/procedimientos/Phyto\\_Monitoring\\_Guide\\_DEC\\_2021.pdf](https://www.aesan.gob.es/en/CRLMB/docs/docs/procedimientos/Phyto_Monitoring_Guide_DEC_2021.pdf)

# Frequent/Main official control difficulties



- Control laboratories testing for marine biotoxins
  - availability
  - methodology: followed, validated, validation for different matrices
  - timeliness of results
  - proficiency testing

# Frequent/Main official control difficulties



- Supervision of control laboratories
  - supervision expertise
  - “gaps” between accreditation requirements and official control requirements

# Thank you



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