



2023 Shellfish Commission Guidance

Compliance with National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance (NSSP-MO) standards maintains the integrity of our laboratory and sample results. DoAG only performs Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved laboratory procedures.

The following sampling requirements are essential to obtaining representative results:

	Water Samples	Shellfish Meat Samples
Scheduling	Please schedule all samples with DoAG prior to collection. The Department of Public Health can only process water samples, and also requires advanced scheduling.	
Tides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can start sampling 1 ½ hours after high tide (ebb tide) Cannot sample longer than 1 ½ hours after low tide (flood tide) 	There are no tide requirements for meat samples. Commissions that need to dig during low tide must time collection and delivery to lab appropriately.
Sample sheets	Please provide COMPLETE sheets with your samples, including collection time. This is critical, and will allow us to give you results sooner.	
TC	A temperature control (TC) must be provided and be between 0-10°C at time of delivery.	
Ice	Samples must be iced immediately following collection, and transported and delivered on ice. Please ensure samples are not floating in ice melt.	
Lab availability	Monday-Thursday (please deliver no later than 12pm on Thursday)	Monday-Wednesday (please deliver no later than 12pm on Wednesday)
Time limits	Samples must be processed within 30 hours of collection	Samples must be processed within 24 hours of collection
Collection containers	Please use the sterile sample bottles provided by DoAG.	Please use a clean air-tight bag. DoAG can provide shellfish collection bags when requested.
Sample amount	Please provide 1 labeled bottle per station, with a minimum of 100mL/sample.	Please provide 15 shellfish per sample in a labeled bag.
Unacceptable samples	The following will NOT be processed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cracked sample bottles Frozen samples/samples containing ice Samples without an airspace 	Cracked, gaping, or dead shellfish cannot be used in sample processing. If 12 intact, live shellfish are not provided, the sample will not be processed.

Sampling requirements are based upon your area classification and/or desire for classification upgrades:

Classification	Open sample requirements	APC sample requirements
Approved	0	5 annually & 15 over a 3 year period
Conditionally Approved	12 annually (1 per month)	
Conditionally Approved Seasonal	1 sample per month that the area is designated to be open (e.g. an area seasonally open for 6 months should have 6 open samples)	
Restricted Relay or Special Study	0	Samples not required unless potential for upgrade. 5 annually & 15 over a 3 year period. Target rainfall events around the desired, realistic rainfall trigger. Consult with DoAG.

To schedule sample delivery, or for general questions, please contact:
Alissa Dragan
 Supervising Environmental Analyst
Alissa.Dragan@ct.gov | 860-818-7034 (cell)

To report a potential harmful algal bloom, or for questions about HABs, please contact:
Emily Marquis
 Environmental Analyst II
Emily.Marquis@ct.gov | 860-929-6414 (cell)