



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

## Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
Environmental Health Laboratory

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June 21, 2016

RE: Testing schedule for PST samples using HPLC-PCOX method

To our valued clients:

As you are all well aware, measures are being taken throughout state government in order to be more cost effective while maintaining essential services. The Environmental Health Laboratory (EHL) has identified one area to increase efficiency by pooling samples for the same kind of analysis, which will reduce the number of analytical batches required to test the same number of samples. The reduction in batches reduces the number of QC samples, data entry, and reviews necessary for the same number of sample results.

The primary client types utilizing our HPLC-PCOX method for paralytic shellfish toxin (PST) are research, tribal, and recreational sample collections. Many of these collections are opportunistic samples that are then sent into the EHL for analysis. Depending on availability to pack, shipping, and weather conditions, the time from collection to arrival at EHL varies, with an average time from collection to receipt at the EHL of 31 days.

In order to minimize the time spent calibrating instruments and analyzing data for these samples, regularly scheduled testing weeks will be implemented starting in July. Similar to other low volume yet necessary services, the EHL will accept samples for the HPLC-PCOX method at any time, however, all samples submitted will be analyzed as a group during the next scheduled testing week, per the schedule below. The turnaround time (date expected for results) will be based on the testing week, rather than the date of arrival at EHL. Our goal is a preliminary result within 5 business days and a final report within 10 business days.

Due to the fact that samples are usually collected around the lowest negative tide for the month, and to provide ample time for sample preparation and shipping, the testing schedule for the remainder of calendar year 2016 will be as follows:

July 11, 2016	September 26, 2016	November 28, 2016
August 8, 2016	October 24, 2016	December 27, 2016

In order to have your samples tested during these weeks, they must be received by the EHL by 4:30 pm the Friday of the preceding week.

Assistance is available with timing of sample collections, completion of submission forms, packaging and temperature requirements, shipping, and sample tracking. As always, sampling questions, planned sampling activities, and shipping notifications should be directed to [DEC.EH-Lab-ShippingReceiving@alaska.gov](mailto:DEC.EH-Lab-ShippingReceiving@alaska.gov) or 907-375-8231.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patryce D. McKinney".

Patryce D. McKinney, MBA  
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory