

**[BFAR FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.
235, April 28, 2010]**

SAFETY AND QUALITY CONTROL STANDARDS FOR PSP

This Order establishing the safety and quality control standard for paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) is hereby issued pursuant to Section 67 of RA 8550 (Fisheries Code) and RA 7394 (Consumer's Act) for guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. Definition - The terms as used herein shall be construed as follows:

- a. Paralytic shellfish poison – A water soluble, heat and acid resistant marine toxin produced by dinoflagellates (*Pyrodinium bahamense var. compressum*, *Gymnodinium catenatum* and some *Alexandrium* species) causing symptoms characterized by nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tingling sensation in the lips and extremities, numbness and in severe cases, death.
- b. Saxitoxin – A neurotoxin found in *Pyrodinium bahamense var. compressum*, *Gymnodinium catenatum* and some *Alexandrium* species acting on the nervous system by blocking sodium channels.
- c. Shellfish Advisory – An official statement declaring certain water area to be positive for toxic red tide rendering shellfish therein unfit for human consumption or to be toxin free.
- d. Shellfish Bulletin - An official statement issued regularly declaring specific water areas of the country to be either toxin free or positive for toxic red tide.

SECTION 2. Regulatory Limit – A regulatory limit of 60 ug STX equivalent/100g shellfish meat is hereby established for both domestic and foreign markets. Toxicity levels in shellfish of 60 ug/STX equivalent /100g or above is considered positive for PSP.

SECTION 3. Procedure – The following procedure shall apply in the monitoring of paralytic shellfish poison:

- a. The Marine Biotoxin Section of the Fisheries Resources Management Division shall conduct regular surveys of major shellfish areas and closely monitor other areas with history of paralytic shellfish poison and *Pyrodinium bahamense var. compressum* and to serve as repository of monitoring data.
- b. The Fisheries Regional Offices (FRO) through their laboratories shall take the lead in monitoring activities in their areas of jurisdiction.
- c. Survey of Manila Bay shall be conducted twice a week. Sampling frequency for critical areas shall be done three (3) times a week during