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CHOSAINT
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

Press Release

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SFPA Publishes Revised Code of Practice for the Classification and Microbiological Monitoring of Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas in Ireland

SFPA Invites Industry to On-line Briefing Session on Revised Code of Practice

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) will provide an online briefing session for shellfish industry members highlighting key elements of the revised Code of Practice for the Classification and Microbiological Monitoring of Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas in Ireland on Thursday the 11th of December. The briefing session is part of a Seafood Safety Workshop co-hosted by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) in conjunction with the SFPA. These workshops are for professionals in the seafood industry and focus on topics including shellfish safety, sanitary surveys, and biotoxin monitoring.

The SFPA recently published the revised Code of Practice, following a review process involving consultation with the Irish Farmer's Association (IFA) Aquaculture, FSAI, Marine Institute, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), the Bivalve Working Group, as well as other external and internal SFPA stakeholders.

The SFPA is committed to supporting compliance with both new and existing legislation and is available to provide guidance. For assistance or further details on the updated Code of Practice, please contact sfpafood&fisheriessupport@sfpa.ie

Ends

Note to Editor

This updated Code of Practice (Version 8) is published on the SFPA website under the “Molluscan Shellfish” section, and the subsection “Guidance Documents” on www.sfpa.ie and can be accessed here : <https://www.sfpa.ie/Search/resource/3175>

The revised version includes the following key changes from the previous version of the Code of Practice:

- Addresses previous feedback received from all consultees.
- Updated description of classification types – clarifying Short-Term Classification and Dormant Classification rules following calls for this.
- Updated sanitary survey information including current documentation, rules and processes.
- Clarification on when to, and when not to include follow-up results in the classification dataset after an elevated result.
- Additional visual elements, flowcharts and updated formatting.
- Updated links to legislation and best practice/guidance.
- Revised Glossary
- Addition of *Other Sources of Information* section to direct readers to additional relevant information on Live Bivalve Molluscs relating to Biotoxins.

Further Information

About the SFPA

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is the independent statutory body responsible for the regulation of the sea-fisheries and the sea-food production sectors. It promotes compliance with the EU Common Fisheries Policy, sea-fisheries law and food safety law relating to fish and fish products, verifies compliance and, where necessary, enforces it. Its mandate covers all fishing vessels operating within Ireland's 200-mile limit, over 2,000 Irish registered fishing vessels wherever they operate, and all seafood produced in Ireland's seafood processing companies. The SFPA operates through a network of regional port offices situated at Ireland's main fishery harbours. For further information visit: www.sfpa.ie