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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
MARINE RESOURCES
MARINE RESOURCES LABORATORY
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GEORGE D. LAPOINTE
COMMISSIONER

January 2, 2002

Dr. Dennis McGillicuddy
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Department of AOPE - MS #11
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Dear Dennis:

The Marine Biotxin Monitoring Program of the Maine Department of Marine Resources uses the standards outlined in the NSSP to monitor levels of PSP ("Red Tide") and other marine biotoxins in the waters and shellfish of the State of Maine. We are the organization responsible for ensuring the safety of shellfish from this state. When toxin is found at levels near or above which human illness may occur, closures to the harvest of shellfish areas are implemented. This requires considerable time and effort, conducting bioassays on a weekly basis at 100 primary stations. Maine has historically had high levels of Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP), during the warmer periods of the year.

As you know, we have been working in collaboration with the ECOHAB-Gulf of Maine study for several years. Preliminary results of field observations have already provided us with some valuable information.

We are in support of your "transition" phase in which models developed will be made "user friendly" for managers involved in the research and monitoring of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning. We are looking forward to continuing to work with you in the future and the results that your findings will benefit the managers and people of the state of Maine.

Sincerely,

John W. Hurst, Jr.
Director, Biotxin Monitoring, Maine Department of Marine Resources

Laurie L. Bean
M.R. Scientist I
Biotxin Monitoring



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