

DG Health and Food Safety Directorate (F) Health and Food Audits and Analysis

FREQUENT OFFICIAL CONTROL DIFFICULTIES

World Seafood Congress 2023, Peniche, Portugal

Vasco ANTUNES, Unit F2 Animals

SANTE Directorate F – Unit 2



DG Health and Food Safety

Health and food audits and analysis programme 2023







DG Health and Food Safety OVERVIEW REPORT Official controls on the production and

harvesting of live bivalve molluscs for

human consumption in the European Union

Overview report

Four Member States produce more than 80% of the EU total (France, Spain, Italy and Greece), mostly from aquaculture.

In many of the Member States monitoring of production areas for microbiological quality is in line with the relevant EU requirements.

Monitoring of classified production areas for biotoxins is often not in line with EU requirements, mostly as regards the frequency and type of biotoxins tested.



Recent Commission audits



of Member States

Bulgaria 2023-7740

Spain 2021-7254

Denmark 2021-7253

Croatia 2021-7255

Portugal 2020-7119

of non-EU countries

South Africa 2023-7730

Türkiye 2023-7900

Jamaica 2023-7749

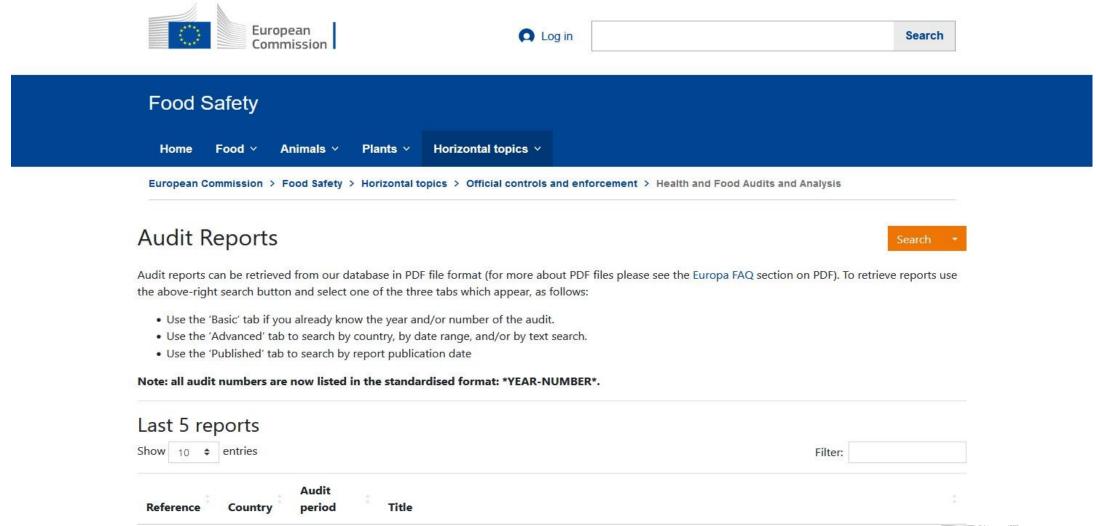
Peru 2022-7513

United States 2022-7544

Tunisia 2022-7516

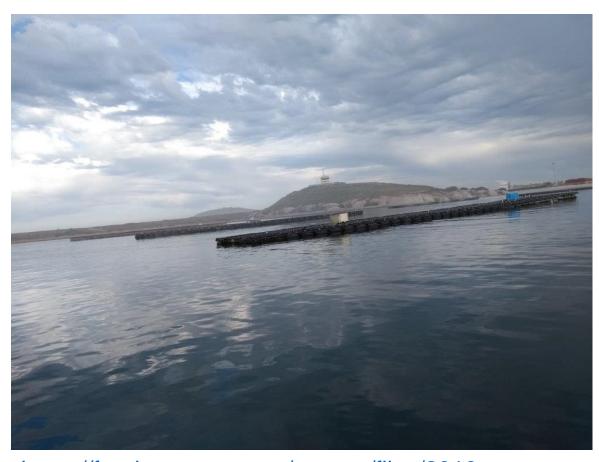


Audit reports publication page



- Sanitary surveys
- Sampling for monitoring
- Ensuring the sampling performed is representative
- Control laboratories testing for marine biotoxins
- Supervision of control laboratories
- ... cost!





- Sanitary surveys
 - Incomplete geographically and/or in coverage.
 - Incomplete report: recommendations.
 - Periodically review

https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/biosafety_fh_guidance_community_guide_bivalve_mollusc_monitoring_en.pdf





- Sampling for monitoring
 - Vessels available
 - Weather conditions
 - Training of samplers
 - Timely delivery to testing laboratories

https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/biosafety_fh_guidance_community_guide_bivalve_mollusc_monitoring_en.pdf





- Ensuring the sampling performed is representative
 - sampling point location, for E. coli
 - sampling frequency, for biotoxins monitoring
 - sampling location and representing the whole water column, for phytoplankton monitoring

https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-12/biosafety_fh_guidance_community_guide_bivalve_mollusc_monitoring_en.pdf

https://www.aesan.gob.es/en/CRLMB/docs/docs/procedimientos/Phyto_Monitoring_Guide_DEC_2021.pdf





- Control laboratories testing for marine biotoxins
 - availability
 - methodology: followed, validated, validation for different matrices
 - timeliness of results
 - proficiency testing





- Supervision of control laboratories
 - supervision expertise
 - "gaps" between accreditation requirements and official control requirements



Thank you



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