

Regular testing of raw material for pathogens that cause food borne illness is an integral part of the shellfish industry. Growing consumer awareness of the health and safety issues of shellfish requires that scientists, regulators and industry can deliver a safe product.

## PROGRAMMEME OBJECTIVE

The Shellfish Microbiology Proficiency Programme is designed for laboratories routinely testing shellfish using the Most Probable Number technique (MPN). The programme provides independent verification to laboratories and monitoring agencies, and ultimately to the consumer, that the testing is being carried out competently.

## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING

### ➤ Confidence in Results:

Measurement of performance in comparison with other laboratories provides confidence that:

- Precision and Accuracy of test results and test methods are within acceptable limits
- Results from participating laboratories (or groups of laboratories) are equivalent
- In-house methods are equivalent to national or international standard methods

### ➤ Credibility:

Performance can be demonstrated to:

- Customers
- Regulatory Authorities
- Accreditation Agencies

### ➤ Compliance with:

- Laboratory Standards (e.g. ISO 17025)
- Regulatory and market access requirements

### ➤ Training:

Test performance from individual analysts can be monitored and reported over time.

- Accredited to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 Conformity Assessment - General Requirements for Proficiency Testing
- Used by New Zealand MPI (Ministry for Primary Industries), as the provider of Inter-Laboratory Comparison Programmes for the meat and food testing industries

## SAMPLE TYPES

Samples are offered as a two-sample set, consisting of a matrix of real shellfish tissue, in the form of either gamma-irradiated oysters or mussels, each with an accompanying freeze-dried vial containing selected groups of microorganisms. The microorganisms present have been stabilised so that quantitative testing can be undertaken.

## AVAILABLE TESTS

- *Escherichia coli* (MPN/100g)

This proficiency programme is aligned to the testing methodology outlined in **ISO/TS 16649-3** and results must be reported as MPN per 100g.

Further tests may be made available upon request, depending on the number of interested participants.

## CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS

[enquiries@global-proficiency.com](mailto:enquiries@global-proficiency.com)

## PROGRAMMEME FEATURES

- Target counts are appropriate to test capability and/or representative of range encountered in industry
- Proven statistical format. Participation by many accredited laboratories giving high quality, robust data sets with low variation
- Technical direction from an independent Technical Advisory Group ensuring relevance to current industry needs

