

National Marine & Freshwater Toxin Hotline

Maintained for the

Aquatic Toxins Program
Division of Environmental Health
Florida Department of Health

under

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Grant #U50-CCU423360-01

by

Florida Poison Information Center - Miami
University of Miami, School of Medicine

September 2004

Toll Free HOTLINE

888-232-8635



Personnel

- **Richard S. Weisman, Pharm.D., ABAT**
- **Jeffrey Bernstein, M.D., ACMT**
- **Lora Fleming, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H**
- **Eva Jerez, B.A.**
- **Poison Information Specialists of the Florida Poison Information Center – Miami**
- **Jay Schauben, Pharm.D.**
 - **Fl Poison Information Center Network Data Center and PCC Jacksonville**

Objectives

- **To maintain a toll-free, Marine and Freshwater Hotline, staffed 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, by physicians, nurses and pharmacists, certified as specialists in poison information by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC).**

Objectives

- **Daily surveillance and data mining related to harmful algal blooms, ciguatera, scombroid, sea-lice, and jellyfish stings.**
- **Detect sentinel health events involving rare marine and freshwater poisonings such as tetrodotoxin, saxitoxin, pfiisteria, paralytic shellfish poisoning, and domoic acid induced amnestic shellfish poisoning.**

Objectives

- **Monthly statistical report of all Marine and Freshwater Hotline reported exposures.**



Objectives

- **Develop a real time, web-based surveillance tool that will allow Florida Department of Health to query databases for epidemiologic surveillance of aquatic toxins, advance notification of public health risks, and health-related marine science research.**

Past Year Accomplishments

- **Established a toll-free hotline to receive calls for any marine and freshwater toxin related diseases.**
- **Poison control center provides front line surveillance data on marine and freshwater toxin exposures.**
- **Service to ERs by providing critical diagnosis, treatment recommendations, and education to health care providers.**
- **Calls answered by specially trained nurses, pharmacists, toxicology fellows, and on-call board certified toxicologists with computerized access to the latest, in-depth health and safety assessment tools.**

2004 Reports to the Hotline

– Jellyfish Stings	96
– Lionfish Stings	19
– Stonefish Stings	5
– Portuguese Man-o-War	35
– Ciguatera Cases	56
– Scombroid	9
– Red Tide	249
– Miscellaneous	19

UTILIZING THE DATA

GOALS OF THE AQUATIC TOXIN HOTLINE PROGRAM

- Creation of epidemiologic reports
- Toxicosurveillance for hazard recognition
- Epidemiology enhances prevention
- Use of data to increase health care provider awareness
- Development of standard treatment guidelines

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