National Mussel Watch Program

About
NOAA’s Mussel Watch Program is a national monitoring program that utilizes sediment and shellfish, such as oysters and mussels, as indicators of environmental health as related to chemical and biological stressors in our nation’s coastal and estuarine waters.

Where We Sample
Currently, Mussel Watch Program samples on a five-year regional rotation and generates reports on annual data acquired relative to their historical context.

What We Sample

Legacy Contaminants
- Butyltins
- Chlordanes
- Chlorobenzenes
- DDTs
- Dieldrins
- Endosulfans
- HCHs
- Mires
- PAHs
- PCBs

Contaminants of Emerging Concern
- Alkylphenols
- Flame Retardants
- Current Use Pesticides
- PFAS
- Pharmaceutical & Personal Care Products

Trace Metals
- Aluminium
- Arsenic
- Barium
- Cadmium
- Chromium
- Cobalt
- Copper
- Iron
- Lead
- Lithium
- Manganese
- Mercury
- Nickel
- Selenium
- Silver
- Tin
- Uranium
- Vanadium
- Zinc

By the Numbers
1986 - present
400+ sites
600+ contaminants

Get in touch
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coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/pollution/mussel-watch