Comments and Suggestions for Authors

The paper provides a useful long term overview of the phenomenon of DSP toxin contamination of shellfish in Ireland, it is closely aligned with objectives of the special issue. The presentation and interpretation of the data is sound and it is worthy of publication. However, the paper is spoiled because of the poor writing and the numerous errors of syntax and grammar in the text. It gives the impression that this is a hasty first draft that has not had any proof reading. It is not suitable for publication in its present form as the text needs fairly extensive correction.

The text have been thoroughly revised and edited to take into consideration the comments from the reviewer

Examples include:

Line 13-14: “…suggest that we are not seen (seeing) an increase……”

Changed

Line 21: “ associated to (with) toxic events…”

Changed

Line 23: “..D. tripos on (in) that year.”

Changed

Line 24: The sentence “The harder hit areas by DSP outbreaks…..” should read something like “The areas of the country most affected by DSP outbreaks are those practising long line mussel (Mytilus edulis) aquaculture”

Changed

The above is just in the abstract. The rest of the text is riddled with this sort of thing, too numerous to itemise individually here.

Overall the text is too wordy with numerous long tortured sentences. It could be made much clearer and more succinct.

For example, Lines 65-66: “The phytoplankton monitoring programme commenced a year after the rat bioassay in 1985 and its earlier version, the main interest was on high biomass samples.” is a typical unclear sentence.

Sentenced edited

The text veers erratically between tenses in various places. Because it is reporting on historical data it should mainly be written in the past tense.

The manuscript needs to be corrected by an experienced editor.

Most of the figures need to have the borders removed. In Figs 5 & 9 the symbols have been squeezed so that they have become ovals unlike the legend circles. These need correction.

The symbols in these surfer plots appear to be oval because of the numerous data points in some areas and it is impossible to correct without removing some of the data. The circles are so numerous and the production areas so close together that they all seem to merge.