

Test to detect toxins in shellfish

Bioresearch Ireland (BRI) has announced the development of a novel testing system for detecting toxins in shellfish. The BRI cell test provides a promising alternative to animal testing techniques currently in use. The test is a laboratory cell culture-based system for the determination of okadaic acid and azaspir acid in shellfish. The method will soon be validated for routine screening of shellfish, through a follow-up evaluation programme with the Marine Institute and with a leading processor, Bantry Bay Mussels Ltd. The current bioassay testing procedure, widely used by the industry in most EU countries, Japan, Canada and the United States has been in use for more than 20 years.

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