Extraction is a process whereby the prepared shellfish tissue is converted into liquid containing released toxins.

**Phytoplankton Collection and Extraction Method**

**Collection:** Collect phytoplankton using any one of the three options below.

1. **Option 1**
   - Plankton net mesh should be as small as possible, no more than 20 µm.

2. **Option 2**
   - Filter contents of cod-end (approximately 300 mL). When using a bucket or hose, 12 liters must be used instead.
   - 100 µm mesh filter
   - 20 µm mesh filter
   - Discard filtrate

3. **Option 3**
   - Hold 20 µm mesh filter at an angle and squirt gently with sea water so that cells can collect to the side.
   - Keep phyto cells moist.
   - 20 µm mesh filter

4. Collect the concentrated phyto cells with a plastic dispenser and transport into a clean vial.

5. Add phyto cells to 500 µL of 0.1 M Acetic acid so that the total volume does not exceed 1 mL. Cap tightly and shake well 6-8 times.
   - Do not exceed 900 µL of phyto cells
   - 200 µL Acetic acid

6. For future use keep the extract capped tightly. Store at 4 - 5°C (39 - 41°F).

**Equipment required to perform the Phytoplankton Collection and Extraction:**
- Mesh net of 10, 20 or 100µm
- Squeeze bottle
- Plastic scraper or dispenser
- Transport vial

**Solutions required to perform the Phytoplankton Collection and Extraction:**
- 0.1M Acetic Acid

This extraction method can be used with the PSP and ASP Rapid tests.

**Cleaning Up**
Clean all equipment used in 5% household bleach and rinse well in tap water before re-using with another sample to avoid cross contamination.