

**SMR 1550 - 10**

---

**WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF RECEPTOR BINDING ASSAY (RBA)**

**1 - 5 September 2003**

**Co-organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (I.A.E.A.)**

---

***High Throughput Receptor Assay for  
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Toxins***

**Frances M. VAN DOLAH**

Marine Biotoxins Program, NOAA National Ocean Service  
Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research  
Charleston, SC, U.S.A.

---

***These are preliminary lecture notes, intended only for distribution to participants.***



# *High Throughput Receptor Assay for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Toxins*

*Frances M. Van Dolah  
Gregory J. Doucette*



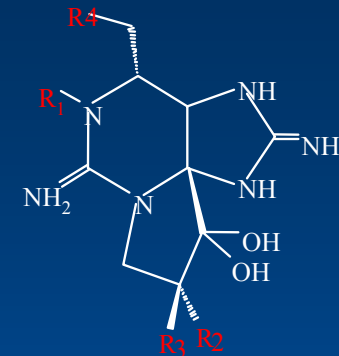
**Marine Biotoxins Program  
NOAA National Ocean Service  
Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research  
Charleston, SC**



# Detection of PSP Toxins

## Challenges

- Multiple toxin forms
- Biotransformation
- Complex sample matrices



		R1	R2	R3	R4	MU /μ mol
Carbamate	STX	H	H	H	OCONH <sub>2</sub>	2483
	Neo STX	OH	H	H	OCONH <sub>2</sub>	2295
	GTX1	OH	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	H	OCONH <sub>2</sub>	2468
	GTX2	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	H	OCONH <sub>2</sub>	892
	GTX3	H	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	OCONH <sub>2</sub>	1584
	GTX4	OH	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	OCONH <sub>2</sub>	1803
Sulfocarbamoyl	GTX5 (B1)	H	H	H	OCONHSO <sub>3</sub> -	160
	GTX6 (B2)	OH	H	H	OCONHSO <sub>3</sub> -	-
	C1	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	H	OCONHSO <sub>3</sub> -	15
	C2	H	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	OCONHSO <sub>3</sub> -	239
	C3	OH	OSO <sub>3</sub>	H	OCONHSO <sub>3</sub> -	33
	C4	OH	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	OCONHSO <sub>3</sub> -	143
Decarbamoyl	dcSTX	H	H	H	OH	1274
	dcNeoSTX	OH	H	H	OH	-
	dcGTX1	OH	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	H	OH	-
	dcGTX2	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	H	OH	1617
	dcGTX3	H	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	OH	1872
	dcGTX4	OH	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	OH	-
Deoxydecarbamoyl	doSTX	H	H	H	H	-
	doGTX2	H	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	H	-
	doGTX3	H	OSO <sub>3</sub> -	H	H	-

<sup>1</sup>Oshima, 1995

# *Detection Methods: Approaches*

## **Assays**

- *provide integrated measure of toxin congeners present*

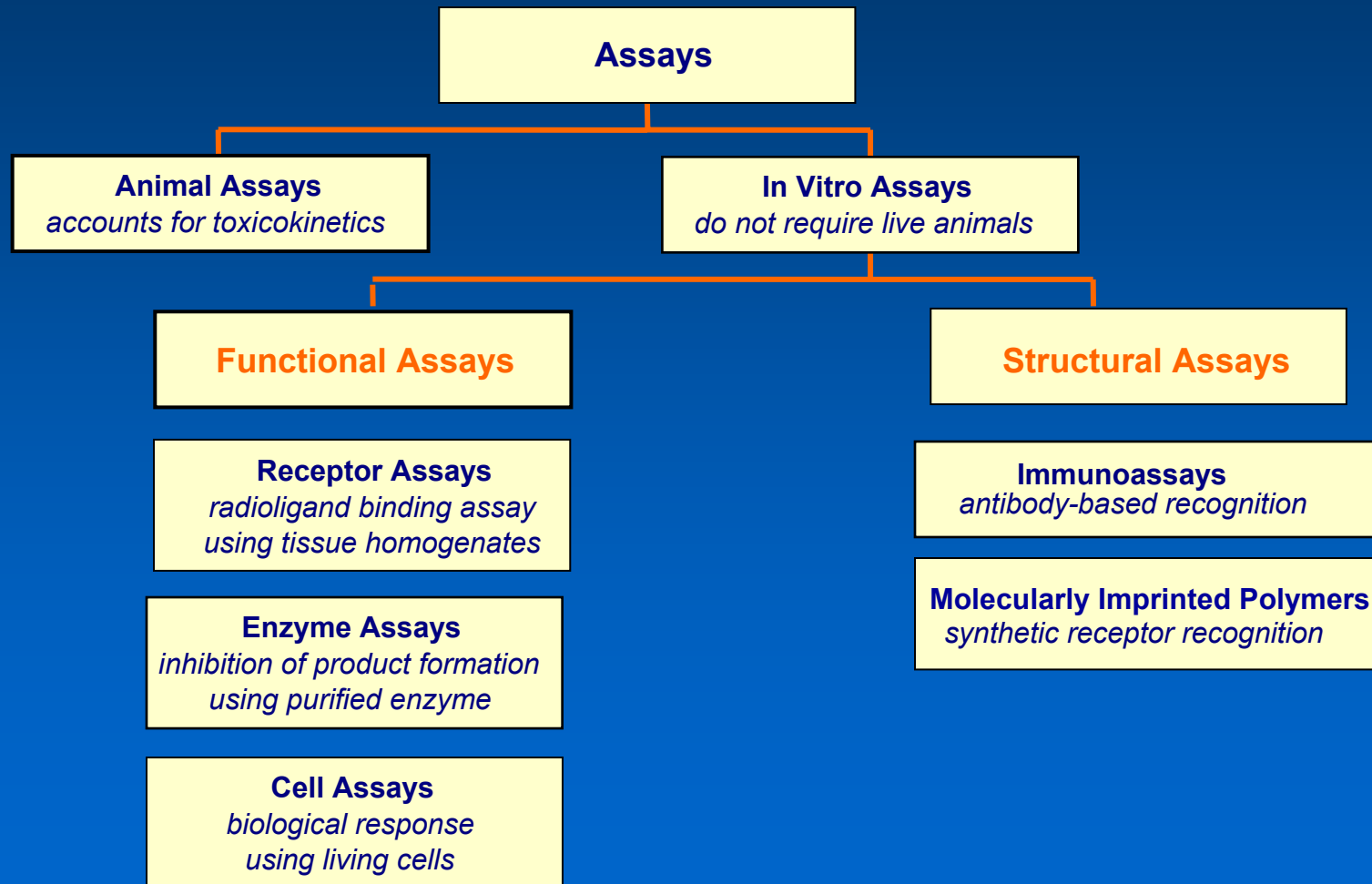
- *rapid*
- *sensitive*
- *high throughput*
- *low cost*
- *little technical expertise*

## **Analytical Methods**

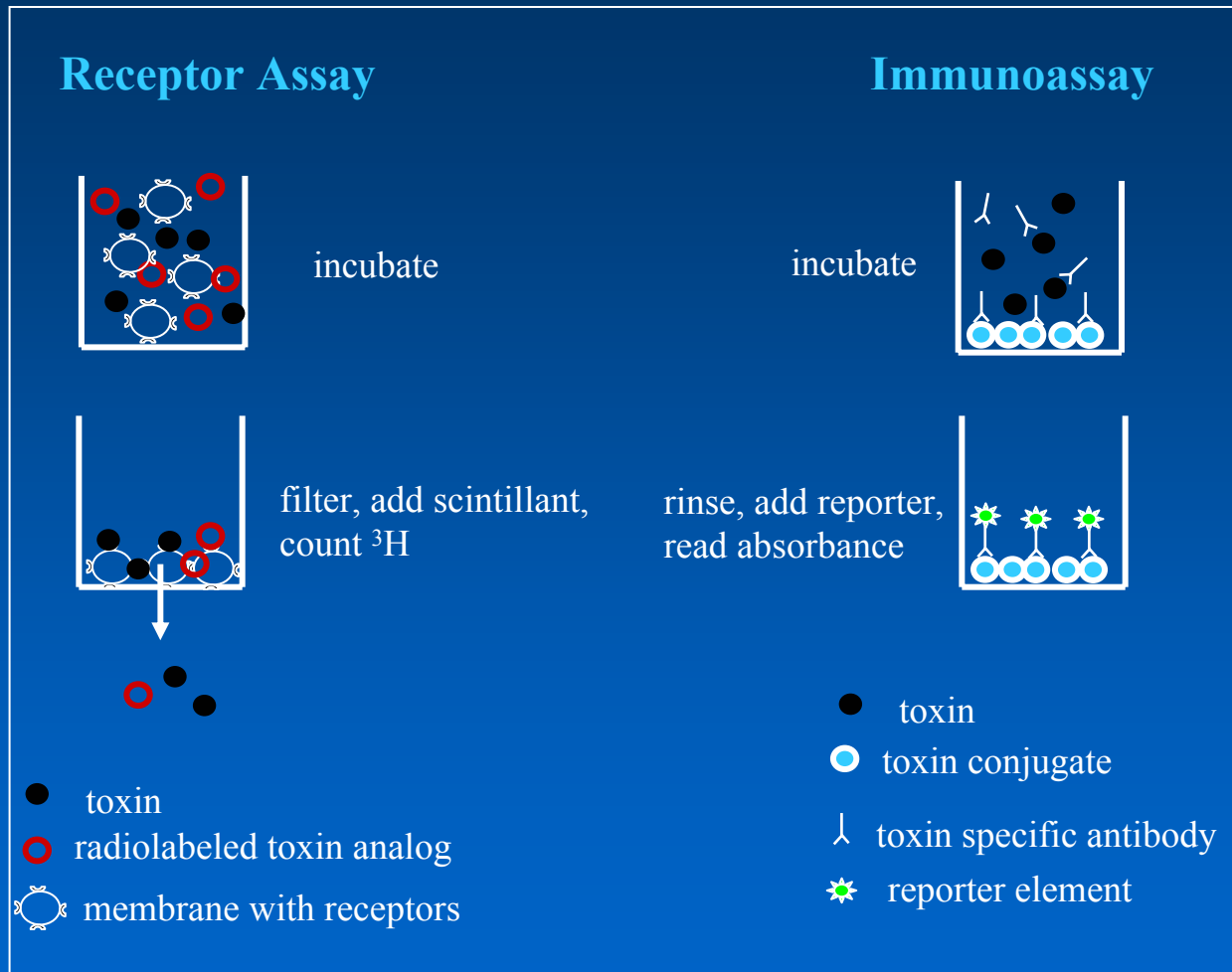
- *provide quantitative measure of individual toxin congeners present*

- *sensitive*
- *quantitative*
- *definitive*
- *expensive*
- *technical expertise*

# *Assay Methods for Marine Biotoxins*



# Comparison of Two Workhorse Assays: Receptor vs ELISA



Measures integrated toxic potency of all PSP congeners based on relative affinity to the receptor

Measures PSP toxin analogs based on degree of structural recognition by the antibody

# *Receptor Assays for Marine Algal Toxins*

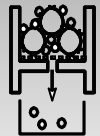
**Toxin Classes:** saxitoxin, brevetoxin, ciguatoxin, domoic acid



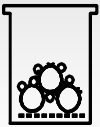
1. Membrane preparation containing receptors



2. Incubate  $^3\text{H}$  ligand with standard or sample with membrane preparation



3. Remove unbound  $^3\text{H}$  ligand by washing and filtration



4.  $^3\text{H}$  ligand bound to receptor sites determined by liquid scintillation counting

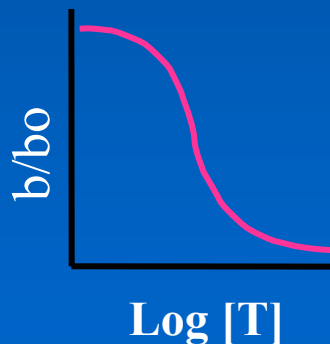


+

$\text{T}^*$

↓

$\text{T}^*\text{R}$



- detection limits in nM range
- assay response is proportional to the binding affinity of each toxin congener
- provides measure of integrated toxic potency of all toxin congeners present

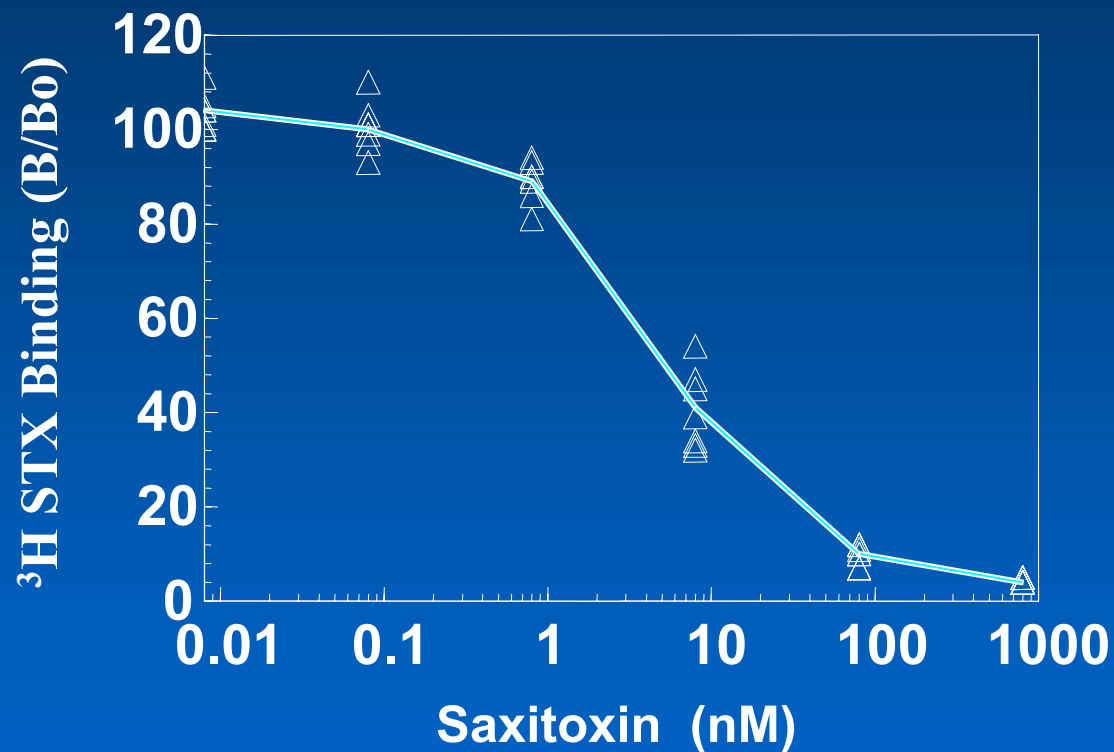


## *Receptor Assays: High Throughput Format*



- total assay time 3 h
- 13 samples/plate in duplicate at 3 dilutions
- minimal technical training

## *<sup>3</sup>H STX Binding Competition Curve*

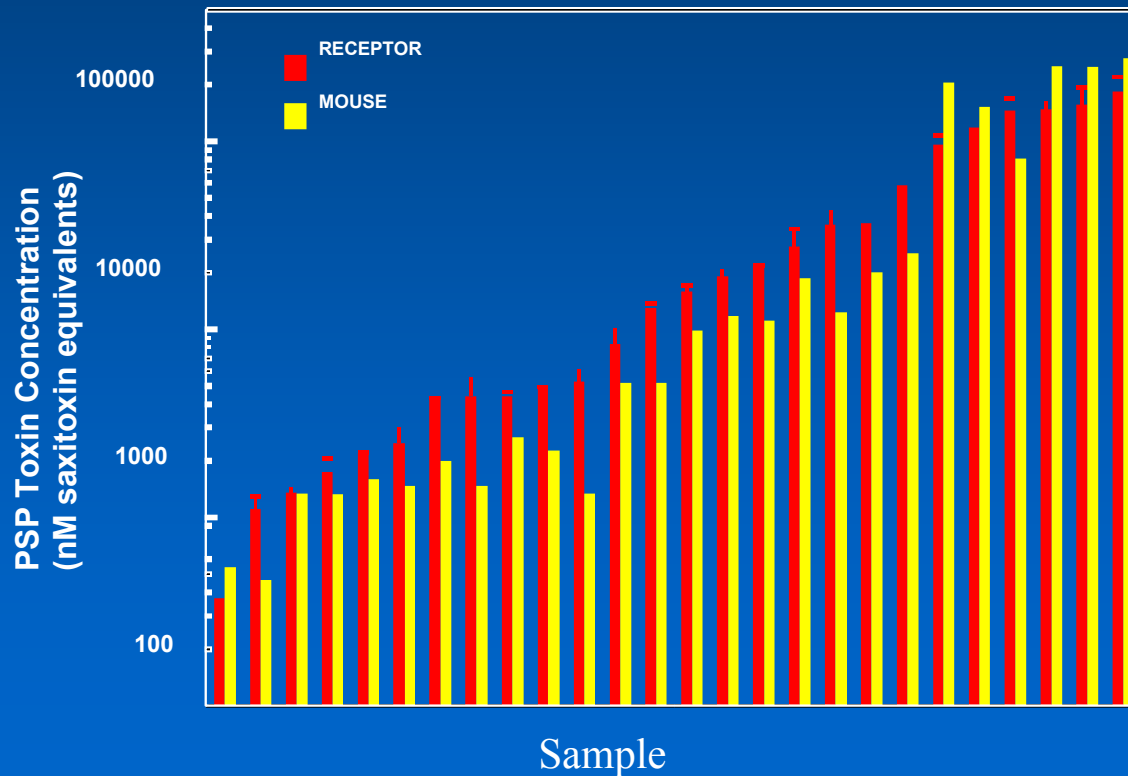


$K_i = 3.66 \pm 0.86$  nM in 7 independent assays run on different days

Limit of detection ~5 ng/ml in a sample extract

# *PSP Receptor Assay: Potential as a Regulatory Tool*

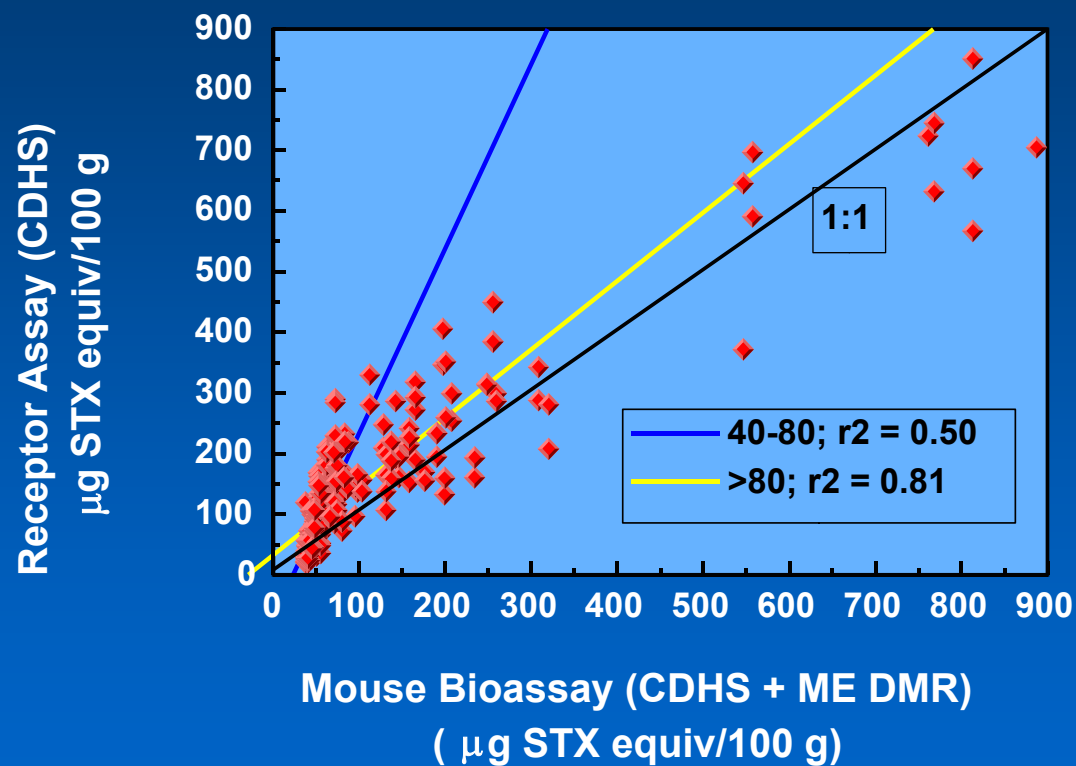
## Method Comparison of Receptor Assay vs AOAC Mouse Bioassay for Determining PSP in Shellfish Extracts



Correlation coefficient  $r = 0.9464$

## *Interlaboratory Comparison: Mouse Bioassay vs Receptor Assay*

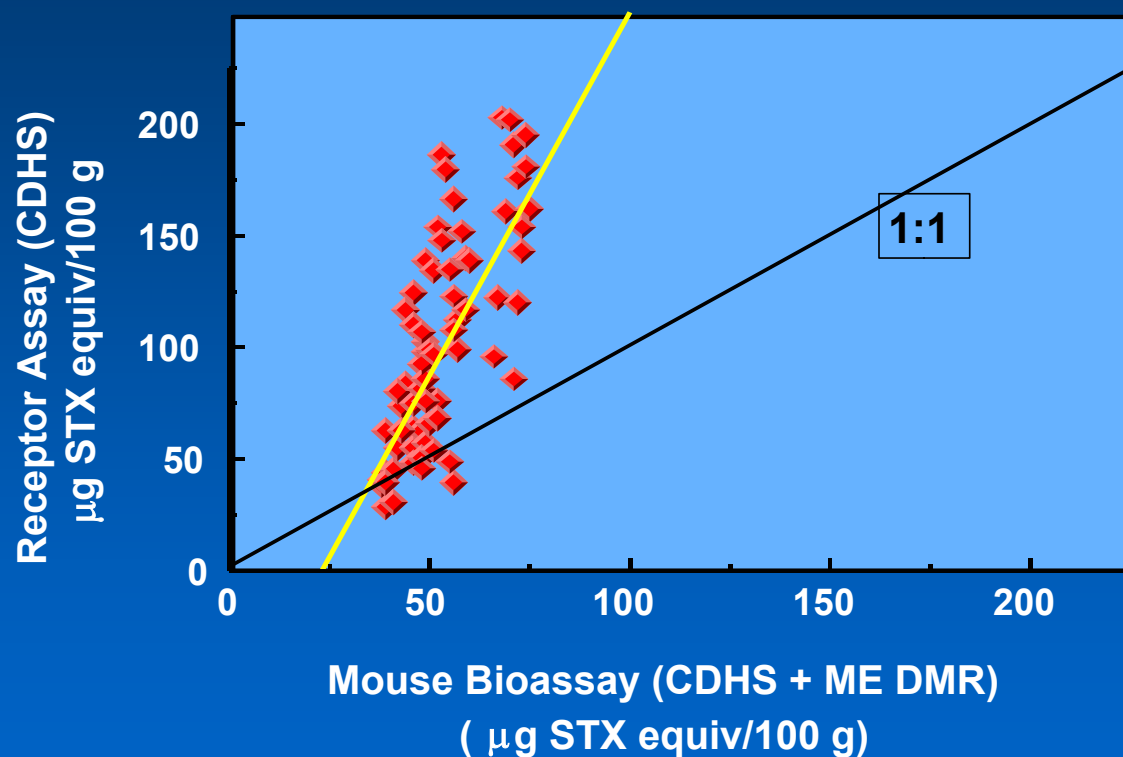
(NOAA Charleston, California Dept. Health Services, Maine Dept. Marine Resources)



**\*\* Assays agree well above the regulatory limit of 80  $\mu\text{g}/100\text{ g}$  shellfish**

## *Interlaboratory Comparison: Mouse Bioassay vs Receptor Assay*

(NOAA Charleston, California Dept. Health Services, Maine Dept. Marine Resources)



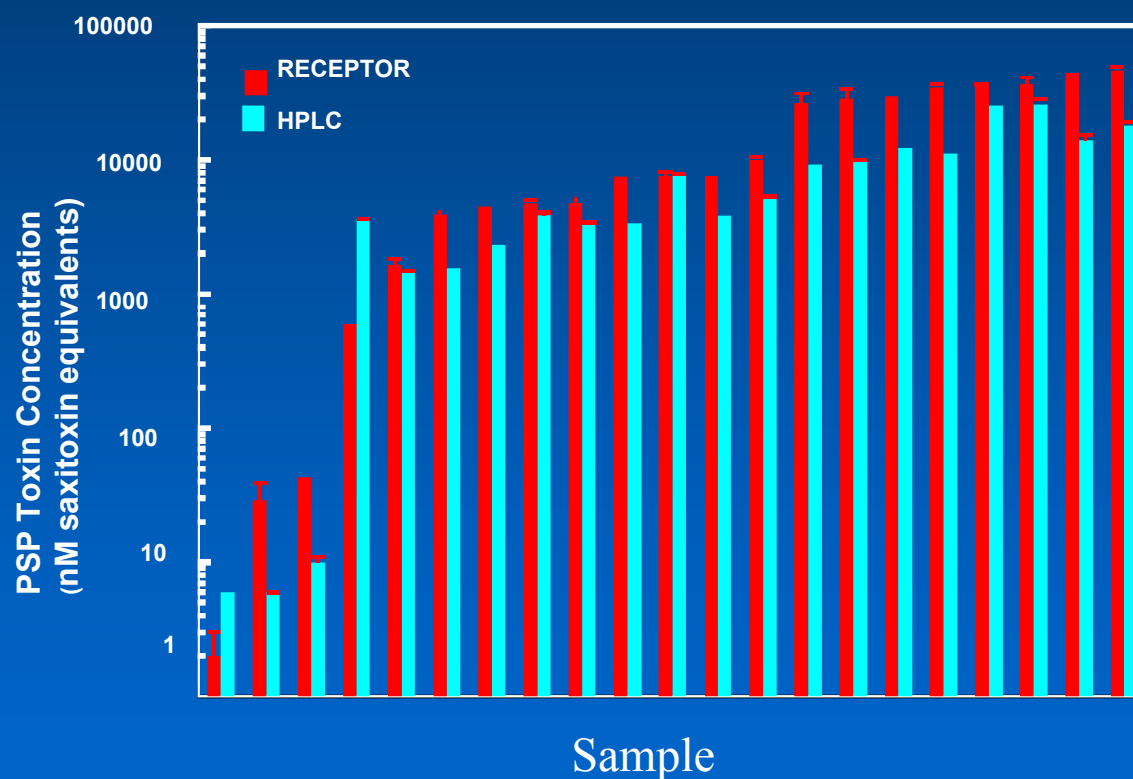
**\*\* undiluted sample matrix may cause underestimate in mouse bioassay < 80 mg/100 g shellfish**

**NOTE: Similar discrepancy observed HPLC vs mouse bioassay**

(Study currently pending availability of  $^3\text{H}$  STX)

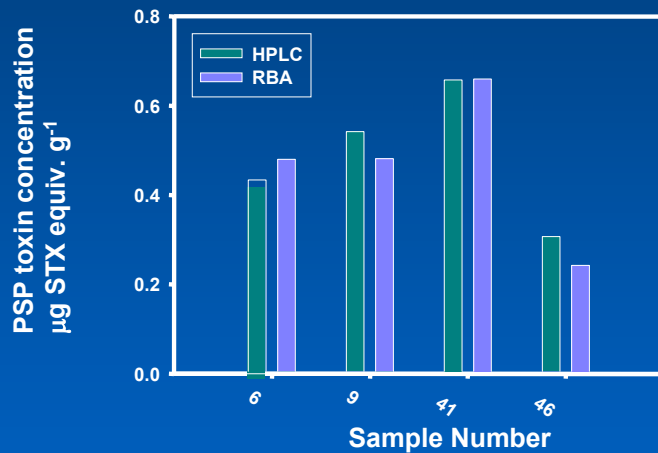
## *PSP Receptor Assay: Environmental Applications*

### Method Comparison between Receptor Assay and HPLC Analysis of Phytoplankton Extracts

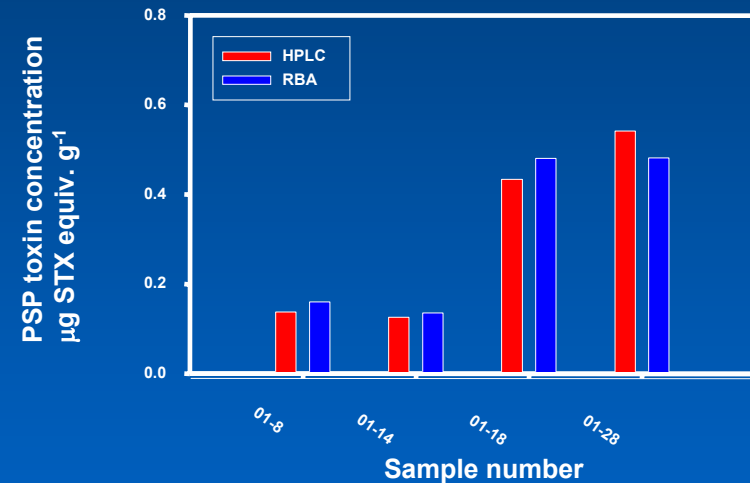


Correlation coefficient  $r = 0.8781$

## *PSP Receptor Assay: Utility in Identification of Trophic Transfer of Saxitoxins to Endangered Right Whales*

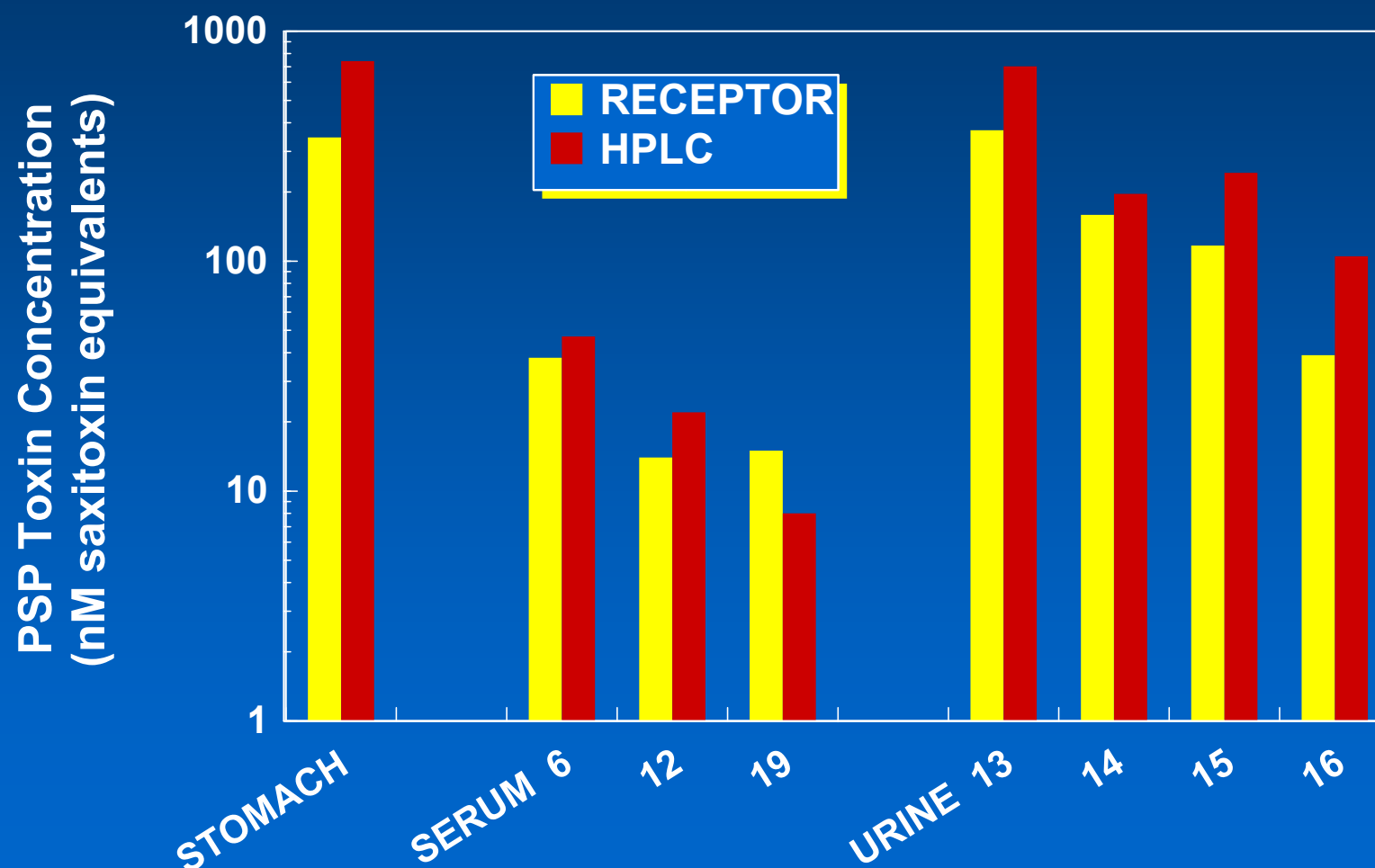


PSP toxin concentration in zooplankton net haul samples showing close agreement between values as determined by RBA and HPLC-FD.



PSP toxin concentration in right whale fecal samples showing close agreement between values as determined by RBA and HPLC-FD.

*PSP Receptor Assay:  
Application to Exposure Assessment in Humans*





## *Summary*

- Receptor assays are advantageous over other testing methods when a measure of total toxic potency is desired
- The PSP receptor assay has become a robust, high throughput “workhorse” assay, with demonstrated utility in:
  - shellfish testing
  - environmental monitoring
  - human exposure assessment
- Acceptance of the PSP receptor assay for regulatory purposes requires formal interlaboratory calibration and provision of adequate long-term supply of reagents, both at the international level

## *Conclusion*

*The NOAA Marine Biotoxins Program strongly supports the role of the IAEA in leading the effort to bring the PSP receptor assay to international acceptance as a monitoring/regulatory tool for PSP toxin testing in seafoods and environmental samples*

*F. M. Van Dolah*

*G. J. Doucette*