

Detection of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in cockle (*Anadara granosa*) by PCR

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the occurrence of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in cockles (*Anadara granosa*) at a harvesting area and to detect the presence of virulent strains carrying the thermostable direct hemolysin (tdh) and TDH-related hemolysin genes (trh) using PCR. Of 100 samples, 62 were positive for the presence of *V. parahaemolyticus* with an MPN (most probable number) value greater than 3.0 (>1100 MPN per g). The PCR analysis revealed 2 samples to be positive for the tdh gene and 11 to be positive for the trh gene. Hence, these results demonstrate the presence of pathogenic *V. parahaemolyticus* in cockles harvested in the study area and reveal the potential risk of illness associated with their consumption.

Keyword: Cockles; PCR; Tdh; Trh; *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*