

Length and weight sampling 'cheat sheet'

Quick reference information for sampling herring, mackerel & blue whiting

For all species:

- During pumping, take 3 part-filled baskets of fish at the start, middle and end of pumping (this is to spread the sampling across the catch in order to best capture catch composition).
- The amount of fish in a part-filled basket varies by species (**Table 1**).
- The 3 part-filled baskets together make up the total sample.
- Measure all the fish in each of the baskets for length (**Table 2**) and weight (in grams).

Table 1: Sample size for each species

Species	Part-filled basket size	Total sample size (all 3 part-filled baskets)
Herring	Approx. 1/3 of a basket	Approx. 25-30kg (Between 90-140 fish)
Mackerel	Approx. 1/2 of a basket	Approx. 40-45kg (Between 90-140 fish)
Blue whiting	Approx. 1/10 of a basket (roughly a generous layer of fish in the bottom of the basket)	Approx. 15kg (Between 90-140 fish)

Table 2: Length measurements for each species

Species	Length measured to
Herring	The nearest lowest <u>half cm</u>
Mackerel	The nearest lowest <u>full cm</u>
Blue whiting	The nearest lowest <u>full cm</u>

(Note: Herring must be measured to the half cm to be considered a valid sample).