

Frozen sample collection protocol – BLUE WHITING

NOTE: This is a trial to test the sampling procedures and data collected by vessels. It is additional to the usual weight and length sampling, which remains the same as usual.

Why? Collecting frozen samples provides fish for laboratory analysis of additional biological information, including sex, maturity and age (by counting yearly growth rings that are visible on the ear bone). Together with weight and length measurements, the additional information tells us about changes in fish biology, growth and how much biomass of fish there is in each age group of the stock. This detailed set of information (weight, length, sex, maturity and age) is used in stock assessment.

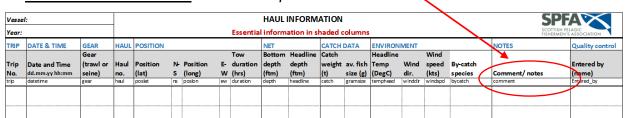
What? The 'sample' is just a factory box of whole fish, frozen and labelled.

How?

- Samples are required from <u>up to 3 trips during the season</u>. We will provide each vessel with <u>randomly selected trip numbers from which to collect a sample</u>.
- For one haul only during the trip that you sample:
 - o after your regular weight-length sample measuring is done, <u>fill a factory box</u> from a <u>random mixture of the fish you measured</u>.
 - o Put one label inside the box and another on the outside, then freeze them.
- Labels are provided (see example):

Pelagic Self-sampling Project (PANDORA) *** FROZEN FISH SAMPLE ***	
Vessel:	Species:
Haul date:	_ Haul no.:
Landing port:	
Notes:	
Sample contacts:	
Katie Brigden (NAFC Marine Centre, Shetland) katie.brigden@uhi.ac.uk 01595 772231 Mon-Fri 9-5	
Liz Clarke (Marine Scotland Science, Aberdeen)	
Liz.Clarke@gov.scot	

In the <u>comments section</u> of the Haul and Length-Weight <u>data entry sheets</u> please include the information 'Frozen sample taken'.



Frozen samples will be collected during landing (Scotland only) or on your return to homeport. (Katie will contact the vessel to arrange).

Contact: Katie Brigden 07951 582520 or Steve Mackinson 07450 683963 v1.0 11/02/21