

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 up to 3 trips during the season. We will provide each vessel with randomly selected trip numbers from which to collect a sample.
- For one haul only during the trip that you sample:
 - after your regular weight-length sample measuring is done, fill a factory box from a random mixture of the fish you measured.
 - 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)
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- Liz Clarke (Marine Scotland Science, Aberdeen)
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- In the comments section of the Haul and Length-Weight data entry sheets please include the information 'Frozen sample taken'.

Vessel:		HAUL INFORMATION											SPFA SCOTTISH PELAGIC FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION			
Year:		Essential information in shaded columns														
TRIP	DATE & TIME	GEAR	HAUL	POSITION			NET		CATCH DATA		ENVIRONMENT			NOTES	Quality control	
Trip No.	Date and Time dd.mm.yy hh:mm	Gear (trawl or seine)	Haul no.	Position (lat)	N- S (long)	E- W (hrs)	Bottom depth (ftm)	Headline depth (ftm)	Catch weight (t)	av. fish size (g)	Temp (DegC)	Wind dir.	Wind speed (kts)	By-catch species	Comment/ notes	Entered by (name)
trip	datetime	gear	haul	poslat	re poslon	ew duration	depth	headline	catch	gramsiz	temphead	windir	windsdpd	bycatch	comment	Entered_by

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