

Notes for POLE-AND-LINE PORT SAMPLING FORM

Use Pole-and line Port Sampling Forms to record lengths of fish unloaded from pole-and-line vessels at end of a trip. Only sample fish for which you can obtain good information about area caught and time period of fishing. Most pole-and-line vessels trips are short and there is enough information in basic trip details. If sampling a large, distant water, pole-and-line boat, try to sample fish from a 5-degree by 5-degree square, landed during the same month.

If the sample from a single sampling session has more than 150 fish, use additional Pole-and-line Port Sampling Forms. *Port, vessel name and date of sample* must be re-entered on each extra page exactly as they appear on the first page.

NEW 2014: All dates to be recorded using 2-digit number for each of year "Y Y", month "M M" and day "D D" in that order. To do this put a "0" in front of single digit numbers. E.g.: write the "3rd of January, 1996" as '96 01 03'.

HEADER INFORMATION

PORT The port of unloading
SAMPLER The first and last name of the person measuring the fish. If only one person sampling fill in 'sampler'.
ASSISTANT First and last name of person writing measurements, if different from the sampler
VESSEL NAME Full name of boat (no abbreviations), with number if there is one (e.g.: *Skippy 3*)
FFA VESSEL VID The FFA vessel register number. May be on the vessel's licence.
REGISTRATION: COUNTRY AND NUMBER Record the country of registration (flag) and the vessel's reg. number.
IRCS Fill in the International Radio Call Sign
DATE AT START OF TRIP The date the vessel left port at the beginning of the trip
DATE AT END OF TRIP The date the vessel returned to port at the end of the trip
DATE OF SAMPLE The day the sample was taken. The first date of sampling if sampling was over several

FISHING AREA - get this information from vessel logsheets !

Write down the two lines of latitude and the two lines of longitude between which fishing took place . Usually this is a box which surrounds the area that the fishing took place throughout a trip but if sampling a large, distant water, pole-and-line boat this will be the 5° x 5° square or other area identified as being where the sampled fish came from.

SORTING - Only ONE box must be ticked.

Normal practice is to try to sample the fish before they get sorted during the unloading process. To do this collect specimens entirely at random spread all through the unloading. This will give a good sample to be used for species composition and length frequency analyses. TICK THE UPPER BOX in this case.

Sometimes fish is sorted into different species before the port sampler can collect specimens to measure. The sampler must collect specimens of each species from all through the catch but must TICK THE SECOND BOX. The sampler must also be sure to collect the unloading weight of each species when unloading is complete.

If sorting is also by size class before measuring, sample fish from each size class separately. TICK THE THIRD BOX. The sampler must be sure to collect the total unloading weight of each size class and species at the end of unloading.

Always try to measure fish before they are sorted if possible !

WEIGHT OF CATCH. The weight of all fish unloaded must be obtained and recorded in this table.

Try to get the unloading weight of each individual species.

If the catch has bigeye tuna that is **not separated** from yellowfin tuna, record the combined YFT & BET weight. If skipjack and other tunas are not sorted during unloading then the MIXED TUNA weight will need to be recorded. Recording weight of MIXED TUNA should only be a last resort if individual species weights cannot be obtained. If there are difficulties with weights then write a brief note about it in the spare lines on the table.

SIZE CLASS

If fish can only be measured after it has been sorted then there are TWO IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS.

1. Each size class must be recorded in the right hand column of the WEIGHT OF CATCH table.
The weight of each size class must then be recorded in the correct species columns alongside the recorded size class.
2. The lengths of fish from only one size class should be entered in each column when recording measurements.
Each column must have the size class of the fish in it noted at the top of the column.

SPECIES and LENGTH DATA Take length measurements from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.

SPECIES Species codes, for example: SKJ; DOL; YFT; RRU

LENGTH The length, in centimetres, rounded to the nearest centimetre down. I.e.: 67.9 cm becomes 67 cm.

∑ LENGTHS (= sum of lengths): - Add up lengths in the column directly above. This is used for data entry checking.