

PIROBS3.06E – Carry out biological sampling of catch

Functional area Observer and port sampling operations
Prerequisites PIRFO Observer, Port Sampler or Fisheries Officer

Descriptor

This unit covers the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge necessary for a person to identify anatomical parts of a fish, carry out biological sampling of catch, store and record collected samples, deploy tags and record and report relevant details of a tagged species.

Elements

Performance criteria

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| 1. Demonstrate knowledge of catch sampling and tagging programmes | 1.1 Understand the importance of biological sampling of catch, the types and use of information collected in catch sampling programmes and the role of a sampler in collecting samples
1.5 Understand the importance of regional tagging programmes, the ways that information from tagging is used and the recording and reporting information from tags
1.6 Understand the purpose and protocols of tag seeding |
| 2. Identify key internal organs and fish body part commonly collected in sampling programs | 2.4 Locate and identify the main internal organs and hard parts in selected species
2.5 Determine the sex of selected species using established sex identification methods |
| 3. Collect biological samples from selected species | 3.1 Use the correct tools to remove biological samples
3.2 Dissect selected species and remove organs and hard parts using techniques in accordance with pre-determined biological sampling protocols
3.3 Label collected samples, store and record in accordance with specified procedures |
| 4. Deploy tags in selected species | 4.1 Insert tags in accordance with specified protocols
4.2 Record, track and report the deployment of tags in accordance with specified protocols |
| 5. Record and report the landing of a tagged species | 5.1 Identify tagged species from landed catch and follow specified procedures to collect relevant information
5.2 Record and report relevant information pertaining to the tagged species in accordance with specified protocols |

Evidence guide

Each unit of competency has an evidence guide that relates directly to the performance criteria. Its purpose is to guide assessment of the unit in the workplace and/or training program. The following components provide information to assist this purpose.

Required knowledge

The essential knowledge and understanding a person needs to perform work to the required standard include:

- Sampling and tagging programmes in the Western & Central Pacific Ocean fisheries
- Use and importance of information collected from sampling and tagging programmes
- Key internal organs and hard parts collected for sampling programmes
- Procedures for deploying tags in selected species
- Procedures for collecting, storing, recording and reporting biological samples and tagged species

Required skills

The essential skills a person needs to perform work to the required standard include:

- Locating and identifying the main internal organs and hard parts collected for biological sampling programmes
 - Dissecting selected species and removing selected biological samples safely and correctly
 - Deploying tags in selected species in accordance with agreed protocols
 - Recording data, labelling and storing biological samples in accordance with agreed protocols
 - Recording and reporting correctly the deployment and the landing of tagged species
- Literacy skills used for:
- Interpreting information relating to sampling and tagging programmes in accordance with agreed protocols
 - Collecting data and information
 - Completion forms correctly
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- Recording data

Critical aspects of competence

Assessment must confirm the ability to:

- Identify the sex of a selected species
 - Dissect the selected species, identify and remove key organs and label and store correctly
 - Record information required for a biological sampling and tagging programme
 - Record and report information gathered from selected species
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- Major sampling and tagging programmes in the Western & Central Pacific Ocean fisheries
 - Procedures for collecting, storing, recording and reporting biological samples from selected species

Context of assessment

While assessment would ideally be conducted on a vessel during observer operations it is likely to be undertaken in a simulated workplace environment. Every effort should be made to ensure the simulated assessment is as realistic as possible.

Method of assessment

The following assessment methods are suggested:

- Observation of the candidate identifying the sex of selected species, dissecting selected species and removing, labelling and storing biological samples from selected species
- Practical exercises involving the candidate recording and reporting required information relating to biological samples and tagged selected species following agreed protocols
- Written or oral short answer questions or scenarios to assess underpinning knowledge
- Third-party reports, including reports from observer programme coordinators and observer programme trainers

Interdependent assessment of units

This unit can be assessed in conjunction with other relevant units relating to observer operations

Resources required for assessment

Resources may include:

- Selected species for dissecting and tagging
- Samples of removed organs and hard parts
- Equipment used to collect biological samples
- Equipment used to tag selected species
- Sample storing accessories
- Tags used in the Western & Central Pacific Ocean fisheries
- Protocols and manuals related to sampling and tagging programmes in the region
- Blank and completed current biological sampling and tagging forms