

## Biological Data – Specimen Collection, Tags, Identification

## Objectives

- ▶ List 3 types of age structures
- ▶ Explain how to select a random otolith sample
- ▶ Describe 5 components of a species ID form for Scorpaenidae
- ▶ Demonstrate your ability to complete the Specimen Collection, Tag Encounter/Recovery and Species Identification forms

## Whole fish / invertebrates

- ▶ Reference collection / Unidentifiable / rare species
  - ▶ Take photo if can't collect whole specimen
- ▶ Document on Specimen Collection form
- ▶ Preservation
  - ▶ Salt
  - ▶ Ice
  - ▶ Freezing \*
  - ▶ Chemicals
- ▶ Label

## Age structures

- ▶ Scales



<http://en.wikipedia.org>



Bob Magnon [www.eralabs.com](http://www.eralabs.com)

### Age structures

- ▶ Scales

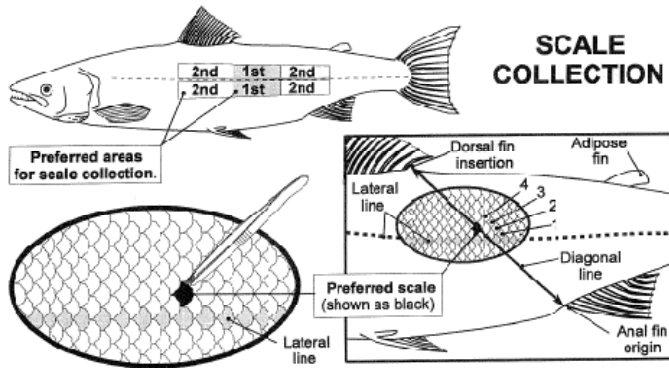


Image from Hanrahan et al.(1997)

### Age structures

- ▶ Scales
- ▶ Spines / rays

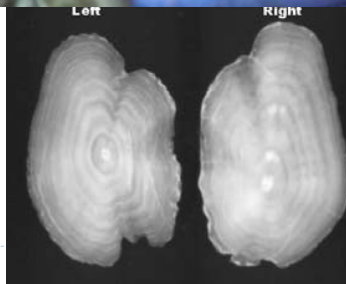


<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/>

<http://www.fl-keys.com>

### Age structures

- ▶ Scales
- ▶ Spines / rays
- ▶ Otoliths



### Age structures

- ▶ Scales
- ▶ Spines / rays
- ▶ Otoliths

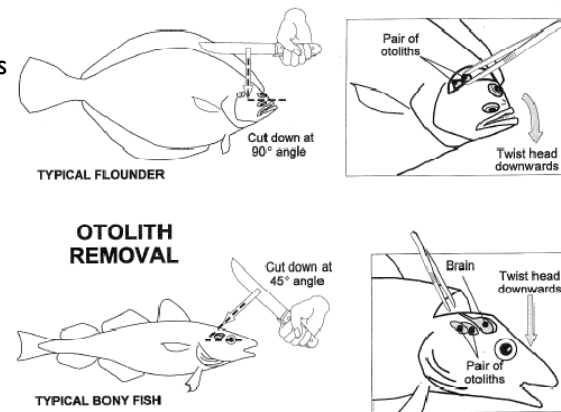


Image from Hanrahan et al.(1997)

### Age structures

- ▶ Scales
- ▶ Spines / rays
- ▶ Otoliths



### Age structures

- ▶ Scales
- ▶ Spines / rays
- ▶ Otoliths
- ▶ Thorns / vertebrae

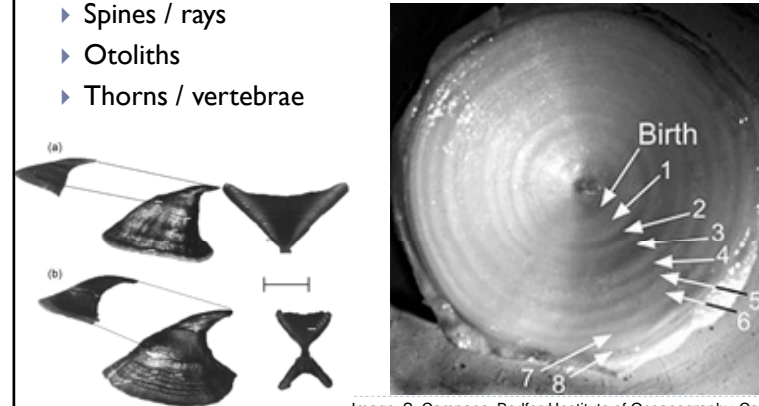


Image from Arkhipkin et al. 2008  
 Image :S. Campana, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Canada, [http://earthguide.ucsd.edu/fishes/kinds/kinds\\_lifestyle.html](http://earthguide.ucsd.edu/fishes/kinds/kinds_lifestyle.html)

### Selecting individuals

- ▶ Species – depends on assignment
- ▶ Individuals
  - ▶ Whole fish / inverts – haphazard
  - ▶ Age structures – random selection from length sample

### Specimen Collection

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Observer code		Vessel code		Trip ID				
Date (dd/mm/yy)		Haul						
Species Name	Code	Spec. Type	Specimen #	Sex	Mat.	Length	Weight	Comment
		↑	↑				↑	
<b>Specimen Type</b> 1 - whole animal    2d - thorn 2a - scales        2e - vertebrae 2b - spine/ray     3 - stomachs 2c - otoliths				<b>Sex:</b> M - Male F - Female I - Indeterminate U - Unknown				
Version 1.0 6/2010								

## Tags

- ▶ Atlantic bluefin tuna – tagging data

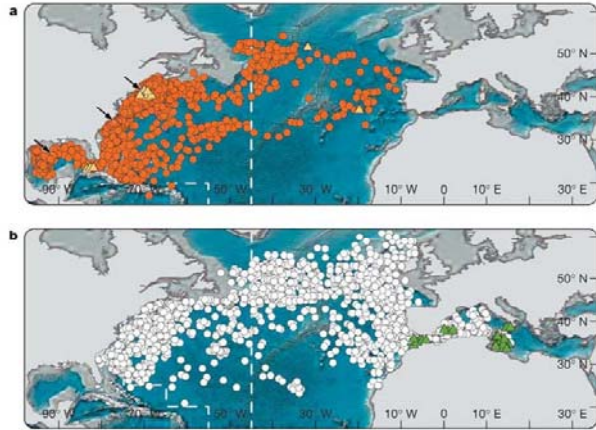
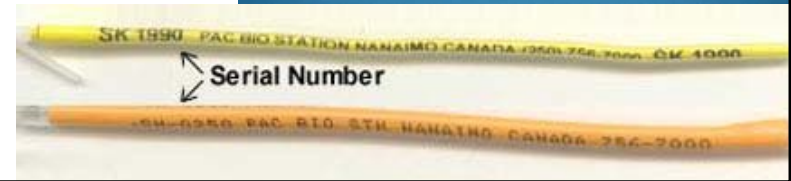


Image from Block et al. 2005

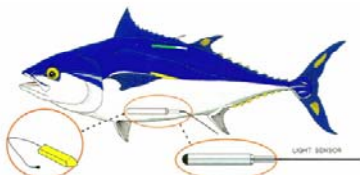
## Tags

- ▶ Conventional



## Tags

- ▶ Conventional
- ▶ Electronic
  - ▶ Archival



Drawing from Anon. (2008)



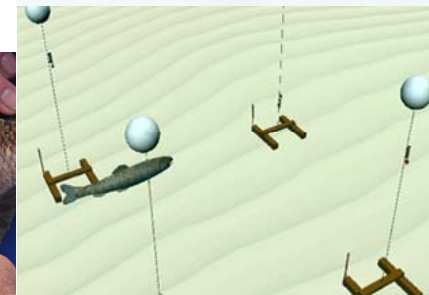
<http://www.iccat.int/en/Tag-Desc.htm>

## Tags

- ▶ Conventional
- ▶ Electronic
  - ▶ Archival
  - ▶ Acoustic



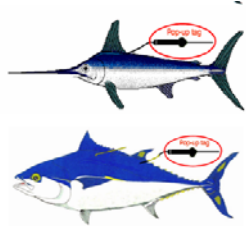
[http://www.pier.org/CA\\_coastal\\_tagging.shtml](http://www.pier.org/CA_coastal_tagging.shtml)



<http://www.htisonar.com/>

# Tags

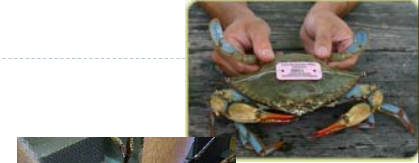
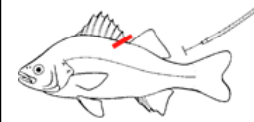
- ▶ Conventional
- ▶ Electronic
  - ▶ Archival
  - ▶ Acoustic
  - ▶ Pop-up



<http://www.tunablab.unh.edu/PSATresearch.htm>

▶ Drawing from Anon. (2008)

# Tags



Tag Encounter and Recovery					
Observer code	Vessel code	Trip ID	Set No.		
<b>Tag Information</b>					
Tag Number	Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Applied		<input type="checkbox"/> Recaptured & released alive	<input type="checkbox"/> Removed	
<b>Tag type</b>	<b>Tag location</b>	<b>Tag color</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Conventional	<input type="checkbox"/> Below 1st dorsal fin	<input type="checkbox"/> Carapace	<input type="checkbox"/> Blue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	
<input type="checkbox"/> Archival (implanted)	<input type="checkbox"/> Behind pectoral	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Green	<input type="checkbox"/> Red	
<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic (other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Opercle		<input type="checkbox"/> Pink	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Belly		<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal	
<b>Who found tag?</b>			<b>Where was tag found?</b>		
Name:			<input type="checkbox"/> During fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> During offload	
Address:			Date:		
Phone/email:			Location:		
<b>Fish Information</b>					
Species code	Length type	Length	Weight type	Weight	Sex (M,F,I,U)
Structures collected?		<b>Length types (combine # &amp; letter)</b>	<b>Weight types (combine # &amp; letter)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cranium	<input type="checkbox"/> Total	01 Curved	01 Whole A Actual		
<input type="checkbox"/> Scales	03 Standard	02 Straight	02 Estimated E Estimated		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	04 Jaw to fork	04 Hozled & gubbed	04 Hozled & gubbed		
	05 Lower jaw to fork	05 Other, describe in comment	05 Other, describe in comment		
	11 Dlic width				
<b>Invertebrate Information</b>					
Species code	Length type	Length	Weight type	Weight	Sex (M,F,I,U)
Structures collected?		<b>Length types</b>	<b>Weight types (combine # &amp; letter)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Carapace	02 Total	01 Body	01 Whole A Actual		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eggs	04 Carapace length (lobster)	02 Carapace length (crab)	02 Estimated E Estimated		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	07 Carapace length (crab)	08 Carapace width (crab)	08 Other, describe in comment		
Comments					

# Tag rewards

**REWARD**  
for the recapture of a tagged fish

If you find a tagged fish don't pull out the tag until the specimen is measured or weighed. If you can leave the fish for examination, so do.

The following information needs to be reported (as detailed as possible):  
**Tag code (letters and numbers), colour and address printed in the tag**  
**Species, size (if possible) and length or weight (specify type & units of measurements)**  
**Date and place where the fish was caught and the fishing gear used**  
 Please provide any additional information, such as water temperature, fish condition, wounds, etc.

▶ Tags implanted on fish are used to learn about fish behaviour and migrations and to estimate important population parameters, such as abundance, mortality and growth. There are three main types of tags: (1) Conventional, (2) Pop-up Satellite Archival, and (3) Internal Archival.

▶ Pop-up Satellite Archival Tags are electronic data logging devices that provide location estimates, swimming depth and water temperature. This information is collected and stored in the tag's memory. A summary of these data is then transmitted to the Argos satellite system after the tag pops off at a predetermined time. Pop-up tags are valuable even when found on a beach years later because their memory still maintains the data accurately.

▶ Internal Archival Tags are implanted in the abdomen of the fish and only the sensor can be seen protruding from the belly. These are electronic data logging devices that provide the same information as pop-up tags, as well as the fish body temperature. This information is stored in the tag until the fish is recaptured. **Please avoid pulling the sensor when removing the tag from the fish.** To remove the tag make an incision on the fish's belly.

Acoustic tags are also electronic tags placed inside the body cavity and are not visible from the outside.

To claim your reward please contact us send information together with the tag and your address to:  
**ICCAT, E-mail: [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int), Address: C.P. 542, Madrid, Spain**

**Closest Local Fishing Agency**      Recovery form available in [www.iccat.int](http://www.iccat.int)

## Species Identification

Genus / Species	Family	Phylum / Class / Order
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine mammals</li> <li>Sea turtles</li> <li>Sharks &amp; rays</li> <li>Bony fish: Tunas &amp; tuna-like fishes, see also country specific list in Appendix 1</li> <li>Shrimp: <i>Penaeus notialis</i>, <i>Penaeus kerathurus</i>, <i>Parapenaeopsis atlantica</i>, <i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i></li> <li>Crab: <i>Callinectes amnicola</i>, <i>C. pallidulus</i>, <i>Portunus validus</i>, <i>Callapa robroguttata</i></li> <li>Lobsters: <i>Panulirus regius</i>, <i>P. argus</i></li> <li>Cuttlefish, octopus and squids: <i>Sepia officinalis hieredda</i>, <i>Sepia bertheloti</i>, <i>Octopus vulgaris</i>, <i>Illex coindetii</i>, <i>Alloteutis africana</i>, <i>Loligo vulgari</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seabirds</li> <li>Fish: all except those listed in Species column and country specific list</li> </ul>	<b>Phyla</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Porifera –sponges;</li> </ul> <b>Classes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scyphozoa – jellyfish</li> <li>Polycheata</li> <li>Gastropoda – snails, limpets, nudibranchs</li> <li>Pycnogonida – sea spiders</li> <li>Crinoidea – feather stars</li> <li>Stellerioidea – starfishes</li> <li>Echinoidea – sea urchins, sand dollars</li> <li>Holothuroidea – sea cucumbers</li> </ul> <b>Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actinaria – sea anemones</li> <li>Scleractinia – corals</li> <li>Pennatulata &amp; Gorgonacea – sea pens, sea whips, sea fans</li> </ul>

## Species Identification Forms

- ▶ Verification of ID
- ▶ Different forms for different groups
  - ▶ Sharks } Elasmobranch ID
  - ▶ Rays, skates }
  - ▶ Scorpaenidae
  - ▶ Flatfish
  - ▶ Misc. Fish
  - ▶ Crustacean
  - ▶ Invert
- ▶ Check boxes for presence/absence & counts of various features

## Species ID

**Scorpaenidae Species Description**

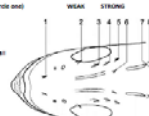
Observer name/code: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Trip ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Common name / code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Haul: \_\_\_\_\_ Specimens collected? Y / N Total length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Photos? Y / N Sex: M / F Fork length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_ Weight (kg): \_\_\_\_\_

Check box for presence/absence Present Absent Head spine strength (circle one) WEAK STRONG

Occipital pit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postorbital spine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Describe color: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the numbers of head spines present

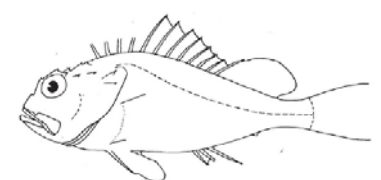


FIN SPINE & RAY COUNT: Pinnules for rays (circle one) BRANCHED UNBRANCHED

Dorsal	Spines	Rays	Total count	# free of membranes
Ventral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Subcaudal spine-count: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the entire fish including the following:  
 1. Shape of dorsal fin which is spine margin  
 2. Shape of pectoral fin  
 3. Position of dorsal fin  
 4. Area for shape and draw in 2nd spine  
 5. SUPERCILIAL SPINES (see photo)  
 6. Preopercular spine  
 7. Gill (see photo) on base



Additional field characteristics used to identify this species: \_\_\_\_\_

## Species ID

**Flatfish Species Description**


Observer name/code: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Trip ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Common name / code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Haul: \_\_\_\_\_ Specimens collected? Y / N Total length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Photos? Y / N Sex: M / F Fork length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_ Weight (kg): \_\_\_\_\_

Check box for presence/absence Present Absent Can run for miles from the land coast? YES NO

Pectoral fin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are pectoral fins symmetrical around abdominal ridge? YES NO
Pelvic fin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edge of preopercular bone hidden YES NO
Anal spine	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Describe color of blind side: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Describe color of eyed side: \_\_\_\_\_

External body shape (circle one)



Where does the mouth end relative to the lower (ventral) eye? (check one)

_____ behind of orbit	_____ below posterior part of orbit	_____ below mid-eye
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Eye count on first side

UPPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LOWER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL		

Draw the entire fish including the mouth when open, preopercular and tail shape, eye size and position, lateral line shape, eye cover structure, ABB shape, location of operculum, and any other distinctive markings or structures, spots, bands, etc.

Additional field characteristics used to identify this species: \_\_\_\_\_

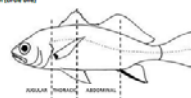
### Misc. Fish Species Description

**Species ID**

Observer name/code: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel code: \_\_\_\_\_ Trip ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Common name / code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Host: \_\_\_\_\_ Specimen collected? Y / N Total length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Photos? Y / N Sex: M / F Fork length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_ Weight (kg): \_\_\_\_\_

Check box for presence/absence Present Absent **Paint the position (circle one)**

Adipose fin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pelvic fin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other fin(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Dorsal fin: How many?  Spines/Rays   
 Anus:  /  Describe color: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the animal and include the following:  
 1. Shape of dorsal fin - all in spine height  
 2. Double fin shape  
 3. Pectoral fin shape  
 4. Anal fin shape  
 5. Pelvic fin position  
 6. Lateral line(s)  
 7. Position of any spines, dfin, barbels, etc.

Additional field characteristics used to identify this species:

### Crustacean Species Description

**Species ID**

Observer name/code: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel code: \_\_\_\_\_ Trip ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Common name / code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Host: \_\_\_\_\_ Specimen collected? Y / N Total length (mm): \_\_\_\_\_ Length type: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Photos? Y / N Sex: M / F Carapace length (mm): \_\_\_\_\_ Weight (g): \_\_\_\_\_

How many? Describe color: \_\_\_\_\_

Parts of walking/swimming legs:   
 Pairs of legs with spines:

Draw the animal and include the following:  
 1. Shape of carapace  
 2. Spines, spines, hairs, etc.  
 3. Detail of rostrum

### Misc. Invertebrate Species Description

**Species ID**

Observer name/code: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel code: \_\_\_\_\_ Trip ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Common name / code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Host: \_\_\_\_\_ Specimen collected? Y / N Total length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_ Length type: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Photos? Y / N Sex: M / F Other length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_ Weight (kg): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe color: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the animal and include an eye identifying feature:

Additional field characteristics used to identify this species:

## Activity

- ▶ Use information on handout to complete a Specimen collection, Tag and Species ID form
- ▶ 10 minutes




Photo by: Pedro Niny Duarte; [www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org)

## Summary

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- ▶ Which age structures can be collected from fish?
- ▶ How will you select fish for an otolith collection?
- ▶ What are the components of a species ID form for Scorpaenidae

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▶



## Activity – Biological Sampling (Part 2)

Name:

On this haul you collected a fish that you encountered for the first time, otoliths from one of the discard species and found a tagged shark. Complete a Specimen Collection, Tag Encounter/Recovery and Species Identification form using the following information.

Observer code: A732; Vessel code: LIB732; Trip 91; Date: May 1, 2011; haul 3

The otoliths are from three African red snapper (*Lutjanus agennes*).

Specimen#	Sex	Length (fork)	weight
75	M	45	3.2
76	F	24	0.8
77	F	34	1.15

A tag was found on a milk shark (*Rhizoprionodon acutus*). Total length 85 cm; weight 3.75 kg. The tag is a red spaghetti tag that was attached at the base of the dorsal fin. You were the first to notice the tag while you were sampling. The fish was retained as part of the catch. Tag info is below:

HCP5499934 Spanish Inst.Ocean. Vigo

You've identified the new fish as a swallowtail seaperch (*Anthias anthias*) which is in the family Serranidae. You did not take any photos but you collected the fish for ID verification. The specimen is 16cm (fork), 19cm (total) and weighs 0.4 kg. The coloration is red/orange and has some yellow blotches/stripes on its back & stripes on opercle. The dorsal fin has 10 spines and 15 rays and the anal fin has 3 spines and 8 rays.

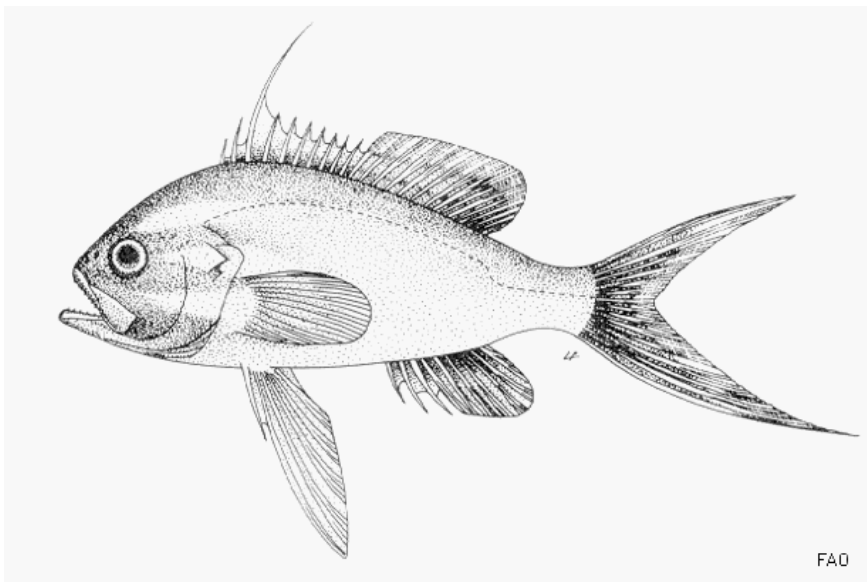


Image: Schneider (1990)

# Specimen Collection

Observer code		Vessel code	Trip ID
Date (dd/mm/yy)	Haul		

Species Name	Code	Spec. Type	Specimen #	Sex	Mat.	Length	Weight	Comment

<b>Specimen Type</b> 1 - whole animal    2d - thorn 2a - scales            2e - vertebrae 2b - spine/ray        3 - stomachs 2c - otoliths	<b>Sex:</b> M - Male F - Female I - Indeterminate U - Unknown
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## Tag Encounter and Recovery

Observer code	Vessel code	Trip ID	Set No.	
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### Tag Information

Tag Number  Check one:  Applied  Recaptured & released alive  Removed

#### Tag type

Conventional  
 Archival (implanted)  
 Electronic (other)  
 Other

#### Tag location

Below 1st dorsal fin  Carapace  
 Behind pectoral  Other  
 Opercle  
 Belly

#### Tag color

Blue  Yellow  
 Green  Red  
 Pink  Orange  
 White  Metal  
 Other

#### Who found tag?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Where was tag found?

During fishing  
 During offload  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_

### Fish Information

Species code	Length type	Length	Weight type	Weight	Sex (M,F,I,U)
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#### Structures collected?

Otoliths  
 Scales  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Length types (combine # & letter)

**01** Fork            **C** Curved  
**02** Total           **S** Straight  
**03** Standard       **E** Estimated  
**04** Eye to fork  
**05** Lower jaw to fork  
**11** Disc width

#### Weight types (combine # & letter)

Blank - no weight    **A** Actual  
**01** Whole            **E** Estimated  
**02** Gilled & gutted  
**03** Gilled & headed  
**04** Headed & gutted  
**99** Other, describe in comment

### Invertebrate Information

Species code	Length type	Length	Weight type	Weight	Sex (M,F,I,U)
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#### Structures collected?

Carapace  
 Eggs  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Length types

**02** Total  
**32** Body  
**34** Carapace length (lobster)  
**37** Carapace length (crab)  
**38** Carapace width (crab)

#### Weight types (combine # & letter)

Blank - no weight    **A** Actual  
**01** Whole            **E** Estimated  
**99** Other, describe in comment

#### Comments

## Misc. Fish Species Description

Observer name/code: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Trip ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Common name / code: \_\_\_\_\_

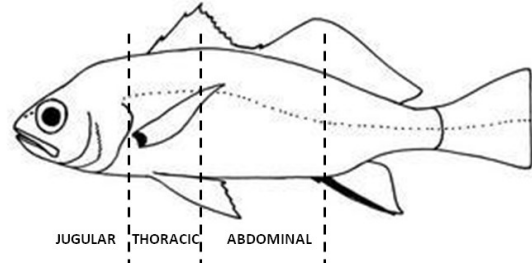
Haul: \_\_\_\_\_ Specimen collected? **Y / N** Total length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Photos? **Y / N** Sex: **M / F** Fork length (cm): \_\_\_\_\_ Weight (kg): \_\_\_\_\_

Check box for presence/absence Present Absent

Adipose fin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pelvic fins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chin barbel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pelvic fin position (circle one)



How many? Spines/Rays

Dorsal fins	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Anal	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Describe color : \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the animal and include the following:

1. Shape of dorsal fin –fill in spine heights
2. Caudal fin shape
3. Pectoral fin shape
4. Anal fin shape
5. Pelvic fin position
6. Lateral line(s)
7. Position of any spines, cirri, barbells, etc.

Additional field characteristics used to identify this species: