

## Data Flags Summary for Fish Data

### Gear Condition Codes:

Condition code for RSTR missing many in early years of program

Most common higher gear condition code is 4 – in beach seine. This is most likely due to overtopping and depth for sampling.

### Most common information in field comments:

*Beach seine:* water depth, vegetation in the net, twists in the seine, lead line issues, Secchi, shortened seine

*RSTR:* Cone spinning/not spinning, number of RPMs, if a large log or lots of debris was found in the livewell.

*Fyke:* location of fyke in channel, issues with mesh/fish escapement, pulling trap early

Suggestion – Many comments are additional descriptors for data flags already being used, such as vegetation code/rank and condition codes. Ensure these additional descriptors are accounted for somewhere – metadata?

### Secchi:

Missing/forgotten

Water too clear for Secchi

Too shallow for Secchi (beach seine)

Suggestion – Would be beneficial to come up with a flag to denote this. Perhaps have an optional drop down in Access for “max”, “shallow”, >, etc. Would also be good to update backup of Access database more frequently. A column could be added during QA/QC before publishing for Secchi based on comments.

### Compromised samples:

Typical occurrences when samples compromised were buckets tipping, the livewell opening, seine purse issues, holes, etc. All these gear condition codes should already be marked as 3, but ensure that all crews have consistency with this. When data is being published, keep condition code 3s in the dataset because it can still be helpful for presence/absence.

### Seine Conditions:

For seine conditions, most issues noted were items that could affect CPUE. Recommendation is to use best judgement of how much/little the issue affected catch with condition code assigned – which is typically already the current practice. Ensure staff are following this, maybe add detailed description in SOP or condition code definition.

### CPUE/Debris:

Does debris has an effect on the trapping at screw trap – number of revolutions is important to determine at what point the trap lost effective catch. Does a log have more impact on CPUE than lots of debris? Important to include this estimation in condition code – which is currently done – maybe write into SOP or additional description for definition of condition codes.