



FISH GONADS PHOTOGRAPHY PROTOCOL

The maturity phases of the gonads that are photographed is based on the **ICES universal scale**.




It is recommended to take several photos of different angles at each step of the photographing process in order to ensure to have at least one exploitable photo.

Each photo must be taken with a **graduated scale** and an **ID sheet** indicating the species, its sex and its maturity phase (+ geographical origin if necessary)

Immature individuals case :	Individuals with milt case:
<p>Highlight the transparency of gonads with a metal object placed underneath</p> 	<p>Take a photo before opening the abdominal cavity</p> 

For all maturity phases :

- Open the fish abdominal cavity with a scalpel or a knife without damaging the gonads
- Properly clear out and separate the inner lining of the cavity, leaving the other organs around the gonads
- If needed, maintain the lining with pins
- Place the fish on a white background so as to have optimum lighting for gonads (- reflection possible)
- If needed, clean out blood, stomach contents and parasites
- Take photos of **both gonads into the abdominal cavity with the other organs around**
- Remove the other organs with a scalpel
- Take photos of **both gonads into the abdominal cavity without the other organs around**
- Remove both gonads from the fish with a scalpel without damaging them
- If possible, keep both gonads attached to each other, as found in the abdominal cavity
- Still on a white background, take photos of **both gonads outside the abdominal cavity**

		
1 - Gonads inside the abdominal cavity with organs	2 - Gonads inside the abdominal cavity without organs	3 - Gonads outside the abdominal cavity