**Crabbing by Parts - Protocol**

* **Reason** : We need a way to estimate crab weight from carapace width which accounts for missing legs, which is a common occurrence in sampled crab.
* **Goal** : Obtain weight and size measurement for each separate part of a snow crab: for each individual leg and the central body.
* **Method** : Freeze whole crab, then remove each leg and weigh them. Freezing them prevents the loss of hemolymph, which would bias weight measurements.

**Details:**

* Record crab sample number on recording sheet.
* Take a dorsal and ventral photo for each crab. Make sure to include crab sample number in photo or in photo file name.
* Using a caliper, measure each crab for carapace width, chela height, and the merus lengths for each walking legs.
* Freeze whole crab (e.g. freezer, dry ice, liquid nitrogen).
* Crab should not be left in freezer too long as they could dry out.
* Once frozen, weigh whole crab.
* For each crab leg, cut off at the attachment joint to the body (mimicking natural leg loss) and weigh.

**Table 1 : Summary of crab measurements**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Body part** | **Size (mm)** | **Weight (g)** |
| Whole body | *----* |  |
| L1 - cheliped | *claw height* |  |
| L2 - leg | *merus* |  |
| L3 - leg | *merus* |  |
| L4 - leg | *merus* |  |
| L5 - leg | *merus* |  |
| L1 - cheliped | *claw height* |  |
| L2 - leg | *merus* |  |
| L3 - leg | *merus* |  |
| L4 - leg | *merus* |  |
| L5 - leg | *merus* |  |
| Body - disc | *carapace width* |  |