

## Port sampling protocol 2016

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Version	Edits made	By
1	First draft	Hans Gerritsen
2	Re-written previous document following comments at analyst meeting Jan 2016.	Hans Gerritsen

### Step 1 - Port selection

In order to make our sampling more representative of the landings, some changes will be made to the demersal port sampling protocols, starting in Q1 2016.

The target number of sampling trips to each port will be proportional to the landings of the main demersal species in each port. Because there are a large number of small ports that contribute very little to the overall landings, only the top 21 ports will be sampled. These ports represented 95% of the demersal landings in the last 2 years. Each of the ports has a probability of being selected for sampling in each quarter, but some of the smaller ports might end up with a sampling target of zero.

The port sampling targets can be accessed in Stockman2015 (<http://mifeasapp01/Stockman2015/>) by clicking on "View Reports" > "Analysts" > "Target Sampling Events by Port". The target number of sampling trips for the first two quarters in 2016 are also given in the table on the right.

Region	PortName	TargetQ1	TargetQ2
North	Greencastle	5	8
North	Killybegs	2	2
West	Ros A Mhil	6	6
SouthWest	Fenit	1	1
SouthWest	Dingle	2	2
SouthWest	Portmagee	0	0
SouthWest	Castletownbere	12	10
SouthWest	Schull	0	1
SouthWest	Baltimore	3	3
SouthWest	Union Hall	3	4
SouthWest	Kinsale	4	1
SouthWest	Crosshaven	2	4
SouthWest	Cobh	0	0
SouthWest	Ballycotton	1	0
South	Helvick	1	1
South	Dunmore East	5	9
South	Duncannon/St.Helens	2	2
South	Kilmore Quay	8	6
East	Wicklow	0	0
East	Howth	4	1

Note that:

- It is important to spread the sampling trips out throughout the quarter
- The sampling targets refer to landings ports (this could be different from the location where you can access the samples, like processors or auctions in different ports).
- If fish that were landed in e.g. Fenit are accessible in e.g. CTB and you decide to sample these, then try to sample a number of species or stocks from Fenit on that day. If you only

sample a single species, it still counts as a port trip but that would be cheating! Try to treat it as if you are taking a trip to Fenit: you check out what is being landed and then decide which stocks you will sample.

- There is a spreadsheet called WhichVesselsInWhichPorts.xlsx in F:\Technicians Master Folder\Port Sampling Guidelines that can help you figure out which vessels land in which ports.

## Step 2 - Species selection

Once you arrive at a sampling location (auction, producer etc.), you have to decide which species to sample. There might be landings of more than one stock of the same species and you are probably not able to sample all stocks that are landed so you will have to prioritise. To help you decide which stocks to sample, you can check the stock targets in Stockman2015 (<http://mifeasapp01/Stockman2015/>) by clicking on “View Reports” > “Analysts” > “Target Sampling Events by Stock” (note that this report is a bit slow to run at the moment, please be patient). The quarterly target number of samples for 2016 are also given below, together with the historic average (2013-15) number of samples we have taken.

Code	Stock	Target	Historic
anb-78ab	Monk bud in VIIb-k,VIII	8	(7)
ang-ivvi	Monk spp in IV,VI	5	(2)
anp-78ab	Monk pis in VIIb-k,VIII	15	(13)
cod-7bc	Cod in VIIbc	5	(1)
cod-7e-k	Cod in VIIe-k	20	(19)
cod-iris	Cod in VIIa	5	(4)
cod-scow	Cod in VIa	5	(3)
had-346a	Haddock in III,IV,VIa	5	(4)
had-7b-k	Haddock in VIIb-k	20	(20)
had-iris	Haddock in VIIa	5	(2)
had-rock	Haddock in VIb	2	(<1)
hke-nrtn	Hake in IV,VI,VII,VIII	10	(7)
lin-rest	Ling in VI-XII	5	(4)

Code	Stock	Target	Historic
meg-4a6a	Megrim spp in VIa,VIa	5	(3)
mgw-78	Megrim whif in VII,VIII	15	(11)
ple-7h-k	Plaice in VIIh-k	10	(6)
ple-celt	Plaice in VIIfg	10	(8)
ple-iris	Plaice in VIIa	5	(2)
pol-celt	Pollack (saithe) VI,VII	10	(2)
sol-7h-k	Sole in VIIh-k	10	(5)
sol-celt	Sole in VIIfg	10	(8)
sol-iris	Sole in VIIa	5	(1)
whg-7e-k*	Whiting in VIIb-k	20	(20)
whg-iris	Whiting in VIIa	5	(<1)
whg-scow	Whiting in VIa	5	(3)

\* note that the ICES stock code for celtic sea whiting is wrong; it should be whg-7b-k

Key:

	Targets will be very difficult to achieve – always sample if you get the opportunity
	Targets will be somewhat difficult to achieve, give these priority over ‘easier’ stocks.

- If you sample multiple grades from one stock from one vessel this is considered a single sample. So a sample is defined as the measurements taken from the unique combination of a stock and fishing trip.
- Some of the stocks in the table above will be difficult to sample, particularly VIIa stocks and some VIa and VIb stocks. Try to give priority to the ‘difficult’ stocks and plan sampling trips accordingly. If you didn’t achieve the stock targets but you have achieved the port targets for the port where these stocks are landed, you may have to do additional sampling trips.
- If a fishery suddenly picks up, (e.g. this could happen with Rockall haddock), then the targets will need to be increased.

- It is more important to sample different stocks than it is to sample different vessels, so if you have the choice between sampling the same stock from two vessels or two stocks from the same vessel, go for the second option
- The two species of monk and those of megrim should be sampled in proportion to their landings; so if 10% of the landings are *L. budegassa*, hopefully we will end up with 10% of *budegassa* in our monkfish samples. So within monkfish stocks and megrim stocks, do not target specific species.

### Step 3 – Otolith targets

The new targets for age sampling are as follows:

Monkfish (black and white), Hake	Sample one fish per two cm
Cod, haddock, ling, pollock, whiting	Sample one fish per cm
Mergim, plaice, sole	Sample two fish per cm

- All length samples taken in the ports should have age samples taken as well, regardless of how many ages have already been collected in the quarter.
- A sample may consist of a number of grades; if these overlap, e.g. they both have a fish of 30cm, then you only need to take one age sample at 30cm.
- In the “Target Sampling Events by Stock” report in Stockman2015 you can keep track of the number fish that have been sampled for age. There are no overall age targets but if the number of aged fish is very low, the number of fish per size class may need to be increased.

### FAQ

Q: How many fish should you measure?

A: You don’t want to spend so much time on a single sample that it you lose the opportunity to sample other stocks but if you have boxes with very few, large, fish you will have to measure enough boxes to get a ‘reasonable’ impression of the size distribution

Q: If a vessel lands round and gutted fish of the same species, do you need to sample both?

A: Yes, because round fish are generally smaller than gutted fish, they should be treated the same as different size grades. So if a vessel lands round haddock, small gutted haddock and medium gutted haddock these should be treated as three separate size classes.

In some cases you may have unsorted landings as well as graded landings. If you are 100% sure that the unsorted landings are representative of the total landings, then you can sample the unsorted landings only. However it is very difficult to know if they are really representative of the total landings, so the safest thing would be to treat them as a separate grade anyway.

Q: What to do you are interrupted before you have measured all size categories?

A: you can still use the age data, enter ‘N’ on the form under: USE THIS SAMPLE AS A LENGTH SAMPLE ALSO (Y/N). However the length sample is now not representative and cannot be used.

Q: What to do if you don't know the total number of boxes landed for each size category?

A: Try to estimate the proportion of each category; this is more important than the absolute amount. So if you have 50% small, 30% medium and 20% large and you measured one box of each, you could fill in:

- 1 boxes sampled out of 5 (Small)
- 1 boxes sampled out of 3 (Medium)
- 1 boxes sampled out of 2 (Large)

(or 10,6,4; or 50,30,20 you get the idea).

Q: What to do about ageing the fish we buy?

A: If you can't sell the unused fish, age them all. If you can get them before they are sorted into boxes then you might be able to return unused fish. *(Not sure if I understood this right – feel free to edit)*

Q: Do we sample undersize fish landed under the Landings Obligation?

A: Fish under the minimum size that are landed under the landing obligation, do not need to be sampled.

Q: What about pelagic, *Nephrops* and inshore samples

A: For the moment the protocols for pelagic, *Nephrops* and inshore sampling remain unchanged.