

FU16 At Sea Self Sampling Nephrops Protocol

In the absence of a trained sampler aboard during a fishing trip the skipper of a vessel can undertake an **FU16 At Sea Self Sampling Nephrops Trip** by following the protocols as set out below. The skipper should fill the FU16 Nephrops Self Sampling Trip datasheet as described below. All cells should be filled as required.

- At the start of the trip please record: Vessel Name, Skipper name, Departure Port, and Departure date. The Fisheries Liaison TL Macdara Ó Cuaig will give you a Trip Code to use for the trip.
- On each day of the trip select one haul to self-sample, if possible vary selected time of day.
- Record Haul number, Gear details, Shot time/date/depth/Lat/Long and Haul Time/date/depth/Lat/Long.
- On hauling if the Haul is a valid tow (i.e. no tear up or coming fast) proceed with the rest of the self-sampling protocol. If the Haul is an invalid tow please tick the invalid box and self-sample the next available tow.
- On hauling the gear, record an estimate of the **Total Bulk Catch in kg**. The total bulk catch is the amount in the cod end on hauling back inclusive of all wanted and unwanted material. If the vessel is multi-rigging this number will be the combined total of all the cod ends bulk for that haul.
- While the crew are sorting the catch collect one **Random Box of Unwanted Catch** from the sorting system and set aside. This box will include fish and non-fish unwanted material as is randomly collected. ***This will also include Nephrops heads if tailing.*** It is best to fill this box by taking random samples at intervals during the sorting process. This helps mitigate for any bias that would occur due to settlement in the cod end.
- Label the **Random Box of Unwanted Catch** with Vessel name, Date and Haul number and store on ice for collection on landing (for ease use waterproof labels provided).
- Record the **weight** of the **Wanted Catch** for the selected haul by species, grade and presentation (gutted, round or tails). Wanted catch is the total tally from a haul that goes into the hold. Be sure to record all species regardless of amount (i.e. 5kg of megrim is just as valid/important as 150kg of Nephrops).
Should the haul include Landing Obligation fish being put into the hold please record them using their respective species name and record Grade as “LO” for Landing Obligation.
- Should you have any comment for the self-sampled haul, please enter in the box provided.
- On **three days** of the FU16 fishing trip take an extra sample as below, marked with stars
- ★ Fill the sorting table as normal from the conveyor with **Unsorted Catch**. Pick all prawns from this table to fill a large fish box. It is critical that this sample of Unsorted Catch-Nephrops includes all size classes present in this haul.
- ★ Wash, dip, ice and label the **Box of Unsorted Nephrops Catch** with Vessel name, Date and Haul number (for ease use waterproof labels provided).
- **Each fishing trip should return with one haul per day self-sampled, three of which will have two sample boxes** according to the protocol above.
- Please ensure that samples are clearly labelled and stored correctly.
- Once a decision to return to port has been made please contact **the Fisheries Liaison TL – Macdara Ó Cuaig on 0872075988** so that arrangements can be made to collect the labelled Samples and the associated data sheets.
- At the end of the trip record Return Port, and Return date.
- A payment of €400 per Random Box of Unsorted Nephrops Catch and €50 per Random Box of Unwanted Catch with associated data will be made to the skipper for the samples and data collected according to the protocol above (A 10day trip would amount to $3 \times €400 + 10 \times €50 = €1700$)
- An invoice template is provided for the skipper to complete to facilitate payment.
- Return completed invoice to the billing address to receive payment of above.