

# How do I get through the first days on board?



Photo: Pierre Meke, Cameroon, 2009

# Objectives



- Describe 4 things you need before boarding a vessel
- List 2 things you should do before the vessel leaves the dock
- List 2 things you should do within the 1<sup>st</sup> day or two on board



# Things you to do before going to sea



- 1. Review fishing plan or vessel inspection report (if available)**
- 2. Radio codes - Appendix 2**
- 3. Contact information and procedures- Appendix 2**
- 4. List of registered vessels-Appendix 3**
- 5. Read previous reports**
- 6. Pack a binder full of blank forms**
- 7. Prepare sampling and safety equipment including identification books**

# First Day – before leaving the dock



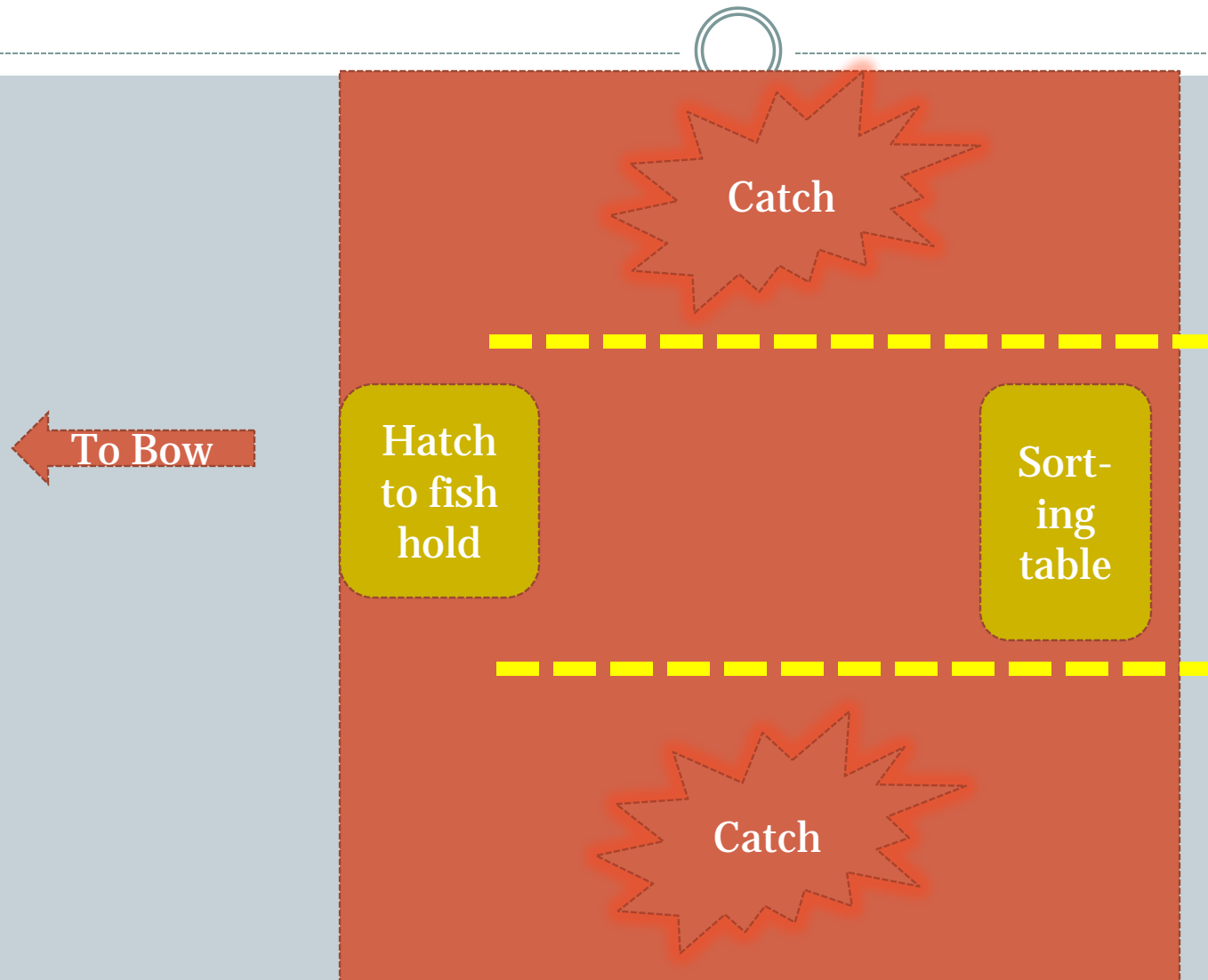
- **Provide introduction to captain**
- **Arrange time for vessel tour**
  - Vessel quirks
  - Sample gear storage location
  - Review program objectives & observer duties (as necessary)
  - Review what you'll need from the captain/crew
  - Areas that are off limits?
- **COMPLETE Safety Checklist before leaving the dock**

# First Day – before or after leaving dock



- **Unpack personal & sample gear**
- **Start thinking about sampling location – discuss with crew. What makes a good location?**
  - minimal interference with vessel operations;
  - easy access to catch;
  - space to store data sheets and small sampling equipment;
  - a place to measure fish;
  - a place to hang scales;
  - sufficient lighting; and
  - Minimal hazards

# Sample location – less than ideal





# Crew sorting



● Port

Starboard



# Sampling & sorting



- Observer sorting near fish hatch



- Crew sorting at table





# First Day or 2



- **Criteria for retained species**
- **Watch the first 1-2 tows**
  - flow of fish –what happens once catch comes on board
  - sorting, discard – where, which species
  - Species ID forms
- **Make a sampling plan**
- **Try your plan & modify as needed**
- **Sampling gets easier with practice!**

# Summary



- **Which of the items below should be reviewed before boarding a vessel?**
  1. Vessel inspection report
  2. Radio codes (most up to date version)
  3. Any previous reports from other observers or inspectors that have served on the vessel
  
- **What items should you bring with you?**
  - Foul weather gear (boots, gloves)
  - Sampling gear (deck sheets, blank forms, scale, pencils, observer logbook, ID guides, manual)
  - Seasick medication & any other essential medications you need
  - Boat clothes (warm)
  - Sleeping sheet (or bag)

# Summary



- What are 2 things you should do before the vessel leaves the dock?
- What are the additional tasks you should be working on within the 1<sup>st</sup> day or two on board?
- What equipment will you need access to on board the vessel?
- What information may the captain need to provide to you?