

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 1st 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

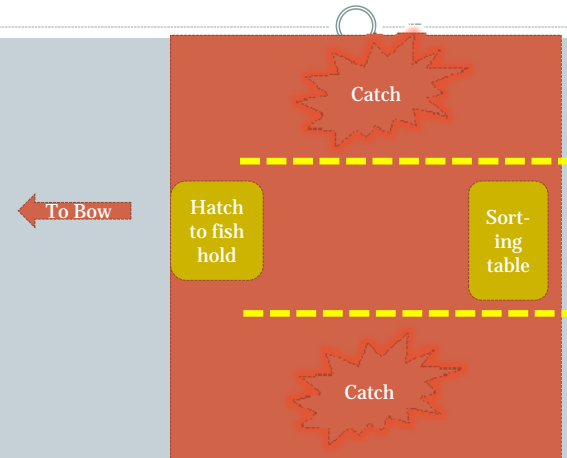
First Day – before leaving the dock

- 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



Photos: K.Dietrich, Cameroon, 2009

Sampling & sorting

• Observer sorting near

• Crew sorting at table



Photos: K.Dietrich, Cameroon, 2009

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?**

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 1st 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?**