The Observer Logbook: Documenting your time at sea

Objectives

- List 3 standard forms that are part of your Observer Logbook

- Describe 5 additional sections that must be completed for each trip
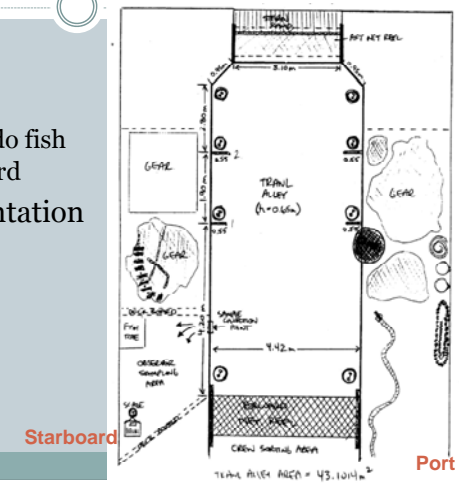

Observer Logbook - Components

- 3 standard forms
  - Safety checklist – complete before trip – Chapter 20, handout p.3
  - Trip Summary – Chapter 4 , handout p.4
  - Compliance Checklist – complete after trip– Chapter 17, handout p.6
- Vessel Diagram
- Sampling Description
- Random Sample Table
- Calculations
- Daily Notes
- Photo log

Observer Logbook – Vessel Diagram

- Handout p.7
- Where you sample
- Flow of fish - where do fish go as they come on board
- Indicate vessel orientation
- Label dimensions

Starboard

Port

Observer Logbook – Sampling Description

- Document how you sampled (handout p.9)
- Record initial sampling plans in Daily Notes
- For each vessel you must describe:
  - Describe flow of fish
  - Describe sample design at each level of sampling.
    - Haul level sample - **population** = "all hauls made by the vessel" selected using the Random Sample Table.
    - Within haul sample – **population** = "all objects (animals, algae, garbage, etc) caught by the gear"
  - Describe the sample frame - Spatial or Temporal. Sampling units can be baskets, pots, sections of longline, etc. Varies among vessels.
  - Describe the sample design

Observer Logbook – Random Sample Table

- RST – prescribes which haul to sample (handout p.13)
- 2 Tables – designed for different hauls per day
- Use 1 Table per trip – complete for every haul
- Discussed in more detail during Random Sampling talk

Random Sample Table #1							
Date	Haul #	Samp?	Notes	Date	Haul #	Samp?	Notes
		Y				Y	
		Y				Y	
		Y				Y	
		N				N	
		Y				Y	
		Y				Y	
		N				Y	
		Y				N	
		Y				Y	
		N				Y	
		Y				N	
		Y				Y	
		N				Y	
		Y				Y	

Observer Logbook – Calculations

- All total catch calculations (handout p.14-15)
- Average weights (catch comp form)
- Pencil
- Rounding
  - Full field
  - "Normal" rounding rules apply (≥ 5 round up, <5 round down)

Observer Logbook – Daily Notes

- Handout p.16-17
- Make an entry for each day in INK
- Record day to day events (esp. relating to sampling)
- Record:
  - Sampling issues & changes to methods
  - Illnesses
  - Suspected or potential violations & actions taken
- Date & time of entry
- Documentation can make your life easier

Observer Logbook – Photo log

- Disposable cameras
  - Priority photos of turtles & mammals
  - Other unidentified items
- Other camera – digital, mobile phone?
  - Other unidentified items
  - List of photo tips in the logbook
  - Identify what's in the photo & insert scale
- Log – date, haul#, camera or roll #, image # & description

Date (dd/mm/yy)	Haul #	Camera # or roll #	Image #	Brief description
Example				
07/11/09	7	1	3-4	ID photo of Hawksbill sea turtle – 2 views
07/11/09	7	1	5-6	Hawksbill sea turtle – gear remaining upon release
20/11/09	25	1	7	Small cetacean, unidentified

Summary

- What are the 3 standard forms in the Observer Logbook?
- Where should the following situations be recorded?
  - You didn't sample because you were seasick
  - Estimate of total catch
  - Measurements of your sampling area
  - Notes regarding the quality of the food
  - Crew interaction that made you uncomfortable?
  - Sightings of marine mammals