



THE BASS FISHERY AROUND WALES (EFF PROJECT)

This collaborative project involves commercial and recreational fishers

Aims of the project

The general aim of the project is to understand and describe the bass stock around Wales. In particular, we aim to generate information on:

- age of capture and proportion of male/female fish by area and season
- connectivity between areas

For bass that are caught and killed we are asking fishers to collect scales and, if possible, all guts and gonads.

For all bass caught (dead and alive) we are also asking fishers to take length measurements in a systematic way, i.e. a range of fish sizes and life stages caught throughout the angling season.

This pack contains all the tools to help you provide us with your invaluable contribution to the project: contact details, sampling guidance notes, sampling kit (scale envelopes, plastic bags, tubes with ethanol, tape measure, plastic knife and pencil).

ALL DATA PROVIDED BY FISHERS WILL BE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS

If you have any questions, please contact:

GIULIA CAMBIÈ

SCHOOL OF OCEAN SCIENCES

BANGOR UNIVERSITY

MENAI BRIDGE

ANGLESEY

LL59 5AB

UK

Tel: 01248 382615

E-mail: g.cambie@bangor.ac.uk

Web: fisheries-conservation.bangor.ac.uk



Picture: Luke Lewis



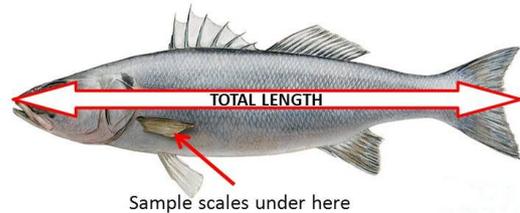
PLEASE PLAY YOUR PART IN ENSURING BIGGER BASS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS IN WALES

S A M P L I N G G U I D A N C E N O T E

Step 1: Information to be recorded on each scale envelope.

Details to be included are:

1. Location of capture: either name of shoreline/beach/general fishing area or GPS point (lat, long)
2. Total length (cm), measured from the tip of snout to the end of the tail (see picture below). Total length to the nearest mm is preferable but to the nearest 0.5 cm is also acceptable. State measurement unit used, if not centimetres
3. Life stage (juvenile/adult)
4. Weight (if measured) - whole fish, preferably weighed on electronic balance (to nearest 10 g, or state other units if applicable)
5. Method of capture – fishing method used (fly, spin, bait etc.)
6. Date of capture – day/month/year & day or night
7. Indicate with a cross if guts and gonads have been collected
8. Captor name and contact number



The minimum details required are 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 above.

Step 2: Taking bass scales

Samples have to be taken from dead fish and, if possible, collected on a monthly basis.

** Always clean the knife before sampling to prevent mixing of scales from different fish **

Scales should be sampled from the left side of the fish underneath the pectoral fin (see overleaf for picture). Take the sample by running knife across sampling area towards the head to loosen scales, and then lift with the tip of the knife and transfer to the scale envelope and leave to dry.

Repeat until the desired number of scales obtained. A sample of 10-15 scales from each fish is required. As far as practicable, scales should be spread across the inside of the envelope to prevent clumping.

Step 3: Taking fin clip

Take one tube for each fish. Write the number of the tube onto the corresponding scale envelope (in this way we can link the tube with the information of each fish). Cut a small biopsy 5x5 mm of fin with sharp scissors. Wipe scissors between sampling, with paper towel (to avoid sample contamination). IMPORTANT: "less is more": take only a small piece of sample because larger samples will degrade and become useless.

Collect a scale and place it into the same tube where you placed the fin clip (each tube will contain one fin clip and one scale from the same fish).

Step 4: Taking guts and gonads

Using scissors, open the fish from the anal fin and cut straight along the underside of the fish, stopping at the gills. Remove the guts and gonads by reaching in and grabbing them right at the base of the head, where you will feel everything connect. Pinch that spot and pull the whole lot out. On large fish you will have to cut this with your knife.

Put all guts and gonads in a plastic bag and label with the corresponding code number (the same as the scale envelope and the tube) and date.

Step 5: Storing your sample

Store your scale envelopes in **dry conditions** to prevent the scales from deteriorating. Do not store in refrigerator.

Retain the bags of guts and gonads and the tubes containing the fin clips in the freezer.

We will pick up the scales and the frozen bags and tubes on a regular basis (possibly monthly, depending on the amount of samples that can be stored in your freezer).

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE!