
ROSS SEA DATA COLLECTION PLAN – SKATE THORN COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Collect a sample of thorns as described below, label in a ziplock, freeze in a covered box to protect from light (light degrades OTC). To collect caudal thorns, remove a selection of up to 10 caudal thorns from midline sites ranging from the mid body to mid tail (Appendix 1).

Vessels that will return to or pass through New Zealand ports following the fishing season are requested to have the samples shipped frozen to NIWA for analysis.

For vessels not passing through New Zealand following the fishing season, thorns should be sampled as described, frozen, and arrangements can be made to ship tissue samples to NIWA in New Zealand upon landing.

Coordinate with NIWA (Brit.Finucci@niwa.co.nz) to arrange transport of skate thorns to NIWA:

Brit Finucci
NIWA
301 Evans Bay Parade,
Hataitai, Wellington 6021
New Zealand
+6443860583

If vessels are passing through Port Stanley, samples can be passed to their agents (Roy Summers, Sullivan Shipping Ltd.) for the attention of:

Joost Pompert
Georgia Seafoods Ltd
10 Boxer Bridge Road
Stanley
Falkland Islands
+500 22616 ext 110

Appendix 1: Caudal thorns

Removal: Multiple thorns can be removed simultaneously attached to a strip of skin by running a knife anteriorly under the skin along the tail and onto the body from the area where the pelvic fins begin to the mid-tail (Figure 1). Ensure that the knife cuts deep enough under the thorns to pass under the thorn bases (Figure 2).

Labelling: Record tag numbers, vessel name, date including year, set number, species code, fish serial number, and total length on waterproof label. Collect tags and caudal thorns in a ziplock, include label, and freeze.

Storage: Specimens or thorn samples need to be kept in the dark to avoid degradation of the fluorescent OTC marks by light during storage.



Figure 1. Area of skate to collect caudal thorns indicated by red box.



Figure 2. Collection of caudal thorns.