

Sampling of Atlantic salmon and anadromous brown trout from the coastal commercial fishery.

1. Purpose of sampling

The purpose sampling is to obtain biological information about the structure of the commercial catches: which size/age groups, sex ratio and origin (wild or hatchery raised) of the fish prevail in the catches

2. PSU (primary sampling unit).

PSU is self-sampling by fishers.

3. Sampling frame.

Coastal gill net and pound net fishery.

4. Sampling frequency and spatial coverage.

Samples are collected year around primarily from ICES subdivision 32 and 28.

5. Selecting the fishing vessel and trip.

Samples are collected when catches occur, primarily from subdivision 32. Samples are collected with fishermen that are willing to cooperate. Refusal of sampling by the fishers is not recorded.

6. Sample size.

Planned annual Atlantic salmon sample size is 110 from subdivision 32 and 10 from subdivision 28.

Planned annual brown trout sample size for the whole coast (subdivisions 22-32) is 100.

7. Information obtained from the skipper

- Total length (precision 1 mm)
- Total mass (precision 1 g)
- Sex (determined via morphological traits)
- Scale sample (above lateral line, between caudal and dorsal fin, at least 10 scales from each fish)
- Occurrence of adipose fin (hatchery reared fish have adipose fin clipped)

Fisherman independently records fishing location, gear and catch date.

Data storage

Samples are preserved indefinitely at the Estonian Marine Institutes archives. The primary data are recorded as the Excel files with agreed format and stored in the PC of the responsible scientist and in the database of Estonian Marine Institute.