

SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Fish Tissue Monitoring Program

Collect the sample from the fish at a clean location.

Treat the sample as if you were going to eat it. Bilge water and boat exhaust are examples of contaminants that can ruin a sample.

You can send in a whole fish (preferred) or cut a chunk of tissue at least 1 cubic inch (more is better).

It is best to leave the skin attached to the cube.

The best location for collection is from directly behind the head.

Place the tissue sample into a food grade zip-lock bag.

We will be able to determine the age of your the fish if you submit the head of the fish or if the otoliths (ear bones) are removed from the fish and placed in the bag with the sample. Instructions for removal of the otoliths can be found at the following ADF&G website:

<http://mtalab.adfg.alaska.gov/ADU/analysis.aspx#/otolith>

or UAF Otolith Lab:

<http://elearning.uaf.edu/cc/otolith/extraction/overview.htm#>

Fill out the sample submission sheet completely:

- **YOUR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** (Address, phone and email)
- **DATE THE FISH WAS CAUGHT:**
- **LENGTH:** Use the Fork length—lay the tape measure or ruler flat on a flat surface and place the fish on top and measure from the tip of the nose to back edge of the tail along the midline of the fish. Report the length to the nearest ¼ inch.
- **IDENTIFY THE SEX OF THE FISH IF POSSIBLE:** This can be done by opening the gut cavity and looking for paired white testes or paired yellow ovaries containing small to very small eggs. See illustrations below.
- **CATCH LOCATION:** GPS, general area, nearest point of land, water body.

Place submission tag into a second small, zip-lock bag.

This will keep the tag clean and dry. Place this bag into a large bag along with your fish sample

Keep the sample cold. Place the sample bag on ice and freeze the sample as soon as possible. If using cold packs, make sure they are well frozen.

Ship the sample to the DEC Environmental Health Lab.

There is funding to cover shipping charges to the Environmental Health Lab
Contact Christoff Furin (contact information below)

When possible, put the frozen sample with a well frozen ice pack in an insulated box and ship or carry to the Environmental Health Lab in Anchorage. Send an [email](#) or call the program manager to let them know samples are on the way.

Delivery Address:

ADEC Environmental Health Lab
5251 Dr. MLK Jr. Ave.
Anchorage Alaska 99507
Attn: Christoff Furin
(907) 375-8211
christoff.furin@alaska.gov

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
FISH TISSUE MONITORING PROGRAM
SPORT CATCH CONTAMINANT INFORMATION FORM**

Sampler's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Catch date: _____ **Fork Length:** _____

Sex of Fish: _____

Location of Catch: _____

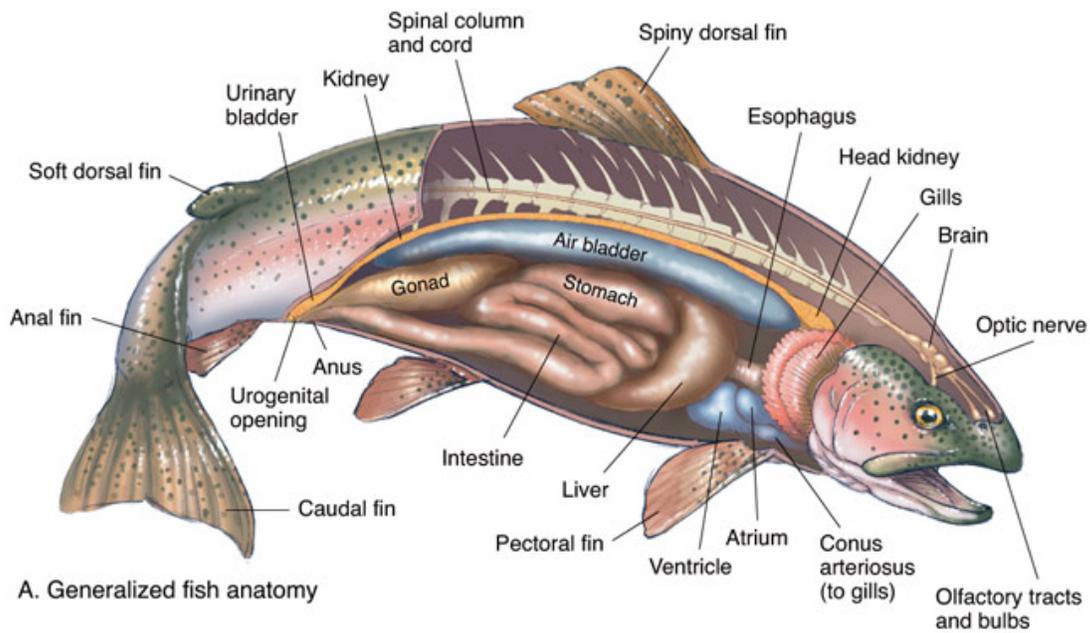
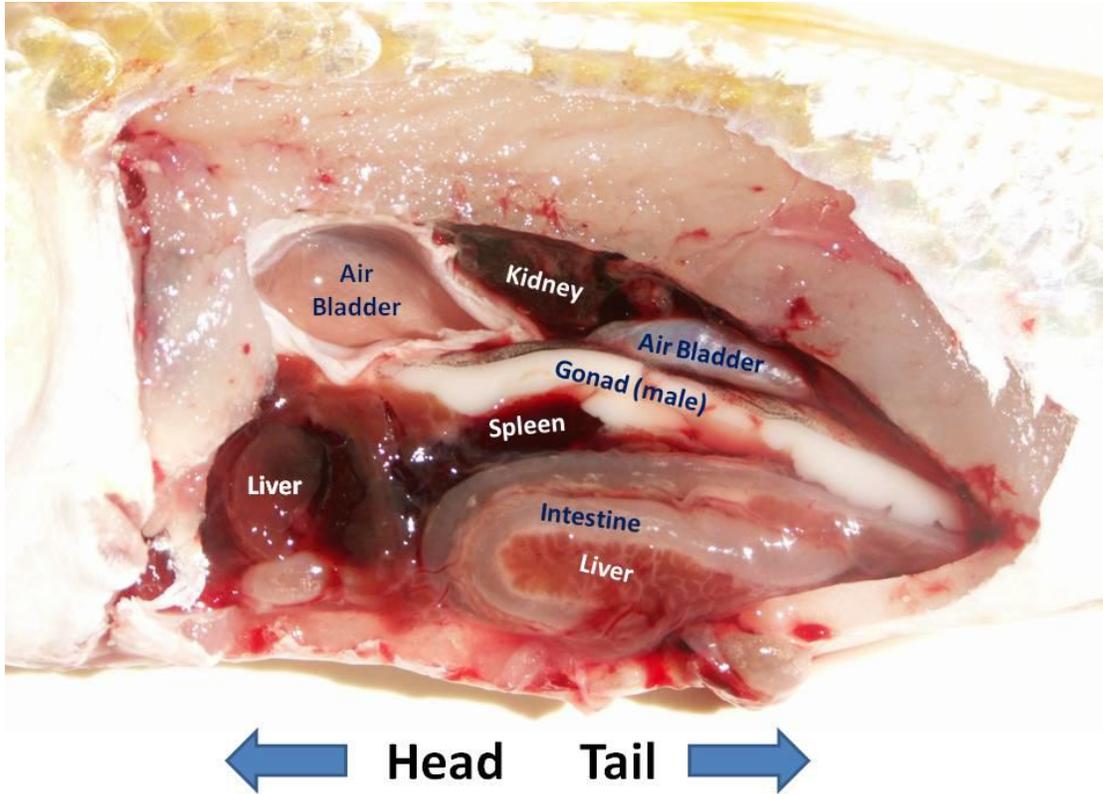
Notes: _____

Please fill in the data sheet completely, one per fish. An incomplete address will mean the fisherman cannot be contacted with the results. The other information requested is needed to make the data useful for the Fish Tissue Monitoring Program.

While filling out the data sheet please provide as much information as possible on the location where the fish was caught. Options include latitude/longitude, ADF&G statistical area, nearest point of land, or general description. Also include water depth if available.

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Male with testis (Gonad):



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Female with eggs (ovaries):

