



Jan. 01, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: NEFOP observers

FROM: Amy Van Atten
Branch Chief, FSB 

SUBJECT: Species Identification Verification Program

It is extremely important for data quality to ensure observers are correctly identifying fish. The Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) requires all observers to comply with this verification process so that we can ensure data accuracy and maintain the integrity of the program.

To complete your obligations, please follow these steps:

1. Check the species list table below.
2. If the species listed has not yet been sent in for verification, send it at the first available time.
3. Store the specimen in a Ziploc bag accompanied with a waterproof tag. The tag should have your observer ID, trip number and extension, as well as the haul number and species name.
4. Record the species on your Haul Log as fish disposition code 007 ("No market, but retained by observer for science purposes").
5. Freeze the samples solid prior to shipping. Ship samples as a priority in a cooler, with coldpack, at the same time as your trip data (don't send on Friday or over the weekend).
6. Please send in the actual fish or photographs listed below. All Fish nk's should be photographed and sent in if possible.

The first time you encounter a species listed in the table below, you should either be saving a specimen to send in or taking pictures if appropriate. We may also notify you that you have been selected to contribute fish on certain trips.

Observers are required to send in the 30 species listed below every 3 months. This is a program requirement. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in additional testing and possible probationary status.

Observers will be required to send in the following species on **all** herring trips:
Atlantic Herring, Blueback Herring, Alewife, Hickory shad, and American shad.

Confirmation of species sent in will be emailed to you bi-weekly, indicating both correct and incorrect identifications. Notifications of incorrectly identified species will be sent out immediately and observers should resend fish the next time they encounter them. We appreciate your cooperation with the Species Identification Verification Program. There are many species you will come across, some may be extremely rare and we will make full use of the samples to train observers during certification classes and refresher debriefings. We understand how much work you have to do, however the program considers this an integral part of your job. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to call Kevin Meyer at 508-495-2005, or email kmeyer@mercury.wh.who.edu , or Pete Canavin at 508-495-2388, or email pcanavin@mercury.wh.who.edu .



Please send in actual specimens or photographs of the following species.

	Photo 1	Photo 2	Photo 3
Misc.			
Scup	whole animal (side shot)		
Longfin Squid	whole animal (side shot)		
Shortfin Squid	whole animal (side shot)		
Redfish	whole animal (side shot)	inside of mouth	
Ocean Pout	whole animal (side shot)		
Gadids			
Cod	whole animal (side shot)		
Haddock	whole animal (side shot)		
Pollock	whole animal (side shot)		
Red Hake	whole animal (side shot)	pelvic and dorsal filiments	rakers above the flexion point
White Hake	whole animal (side shot)	pelvic and dorsal filiments	rakers above the flexion point
Silver Hake	whole animal (side shot)	rakers on first gill arch	
Offshore Hake	whole animal (side shot)	rakers on first gill arch	
Skates			
Barndoor	whole animal (Top of disk)	whole animal (bottom of disk)	
Clearnose	whole animal (Top of disk)		
Little	whole animal (Top of disk)	closeup of rough/smooth patch or claspers	
Smooth	whole animal (Top of disk)		
Thorny	whole animal (Top of disk)		
Winter	whole animal (Top of disk)	closeup of rough/smooth patch or claspers	
Flounders			
Am. Plaice	whole animal (eyed side)		
Sand Dab	whole animal (eyed side)		
Summer	whole animal (eyed side)		
Winter	whole animal (eyed side)	close-up of lateral line	
Witch	whole animal (eyed side)	whole animal (blind side)	
Yellowtail	whole animal (eyed side)	close-up of lateral line	
Herrings			
Alewife	whole animal (side shot)	gut lining	
Blueback	whole animal (side shot)	gut lining	
Am. Shad	whole animal (side shot)	rakers on first gill arch	
Hickory Shad	whole animal (side shot)	rakers on first gill arch	
Atl. Herring	whole animal (side shot)		
Menhaden	whole animal (side shot)		

The highlighted herring species must be sent in for every trip targeting herring.

*****Bag, tag, and send in all Fish NK's along with photographs of the specimen.***
*****Make sure to include something in each picture for scale.*******

