

Sampling Procedures for Thai Canneries

1. Recognition

- Purse seine catch on a carrier vessel is loaded on cargo trucks at port, and then the catch is transported to a cannery. Approximately, 18 tons of catch is loaded on a single cargo truck. If the total weight of a single consignment (catch on a carrier vessel from one purse seiner) is 180tons, 10 truck-transportation is necessary.
- The receiving cannery conducts sizing at least for 20% of the total amount of the consignment. If a consignment is loaded on 10 trucks, sizing will be conducted for two (2) trucks' catch. It takes about 40 minutes to complete sizing for one truck's catch (18 tons).
- In most cases, catch is sorted out into five (5) categories for each species in the sizing process (see below table). Cages designated for a particular category are placed along the conveyer belt.
- After the completion of sizing, all the cages are weighted. The weight of a single cage with catch ranges from 600kg to 900kg, including the weight of the cage in itself (about 125kg).
- The number of cannery workers at the sizing site is 8-12. Most of the workers have a long working experience in sizing. We can expect that cannery workers conduct sizing very accurately, in particular for skipjack. Therefore, the focus of our sampling should be placed on how accurate canner workers conduct sizing is in terms of yellowfin and bigeye.

(*) Sizing categories at most Thai canneries

Unit: kg

Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye
0-1.4	0-1.4	0-1.4
1.4-1.8	1.4-1.8	1.4-1.8
1.8-3.4	1.8-3.4	1.8-3.4
3.4-9	3.4-9	3.4-9
9 up	9 up	9 up

2. Proposed sampling procedures

- Sampling will be conducted at least for one truck's catch for each consignment. However, for the first sampling trial at each cannery, it is preferable to conduct sampling all the 20% catch, which is subject to cannery's sizing.
- Samplers will pick up the first-come 100 individual fish for each category of yellowfin and bigeye and place them on the factory floor, and then will identify species and weight of each individual fish.
- Samplers will record any errors in species identification and weight category, comparing to the sizing by factory workers.
- Samplers will obtain cannery's sizing report for the entire consignment for which their sampling has conducted. Samplers will produce a sampling report for each sampling, including relevant data they have obtained in the above process.

3. Analysis and reporting to WCPFC

- Flag states will establish a data collection scheme to obtain Thai canneries' sizing reports in a timely manner for the catch by their flagged purse seiners.
- Flag states will estimate the actual size/species composition data for their catch designated to Thailand by analyzing sampling reports and sizing reports.
- Further, flag states will conduct other possible scientific analysis using sampling reports, canneries' sizing reports and logbook data.
- Flag states will report outcomes from the above data collection efforts to WCPFC.