Southern California Bight
2008 Regional Marine Monitoring Survey
(Bight'08)

Field Operations Manual

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The Southern California Bight Pilot Project (SCBPP) was conducted in 1994 to begin addressing regional monitoring concerns. This project was the largest regional survey of environmental conditions on the mainland shelf in the Southern California Bight (SCB). It capitalized on the interest and cooperation existing in southern California and the resources available in current monitoring programs to develop an integrated and coordinated regional monitoring program that addressed the needs of the participating local, state, and federal agencies, and provided new management information. The SCBPP provided a much needed first "snapshot" of the state of the SCB. The SCBPP resulted in consistent region wide data sets for describing pollution exposure and biological resources within the SCB. Twelve participating agencies sampled 261 sites on the mainland shelf, which provided an unprecedented assessment of pollutant exposure, the status of biological resources, species diversity, and the presence of marine debris in the SCB.

Four years later, the next regional survey of the SCB, Bight'98, continued the development of regional scale management information and followed the general plan of the SCBPP. Participation in Bight'98 increased to 64 agencies and the number of sites sampled grew to 416. New indicators, such as a shoreline microbiology component and analysis of biomarkers in fish, were incorporated into the study, and the strata were expanded to include San Diego Bay, Catalina Island, the Channel Islands, and historically sampled reference sites. The following questions were posed and formed the basis of the investigation: 1) What was the extent and magnitude of change in an indicator measured in the SCB?; 2) Was the degree of change similar throughout the SCB, or was it more severe in particular areas?; 3) Were observed changes associated with identifiable sources of pollution, such as municipal wastewater outfalls, rivers, or harbors?; and 4) Were the associations identified similar throughout the SCB?

Five years later, Bight'03 continued to build on the cooperative interaction developed during the previous surveys. 58 agencies participated either directly with collecting data in the field, or contributed resources to the project in sampling 388 sites. New strata were surveyed to include coastal estuaries, the upper continental slope (200-500 m), and the lower slope and inner basin (500-1000 m) using more parameters and new sampling methods. As with the former studies, the goal of the project was to assess the condition of the bottom environment and the health of the biological resources of the SCB. To accomplish this goal, the project focused on two primary objectives: 1) estimate the extent and magnitude of ecological change in the SCB; and 2) determine the mass balance of pollutants that currently reside within the SCB.

Bight'08 will continue the cooperative trend generated during the prior three surveys. Once again about 60 organizations will either participate in the field collections, or contribute resources towards sampling and processing the data from over 380 sites. Half of the sites samples this summer will be revisits of stations sampled during former surveys, thereby permitting analyses of temporal trends.

As in previous regional surveys, Bight '08 will attempt to quantify the general condition of the benthos and the health of key marine resources in the region. To accomplish this goal, Bight'08

will focus on three objectives: 1) estimate the extent and magnitude of ecological change in the SCB; determine the trends in extent and magnitude of ecological change in the SCB; and 3) determine the mass balance of pollutants that currently reside within the SCB.

The Bight '08 coastal ecology field-sampling component will be conducted from July through September of 2008. The purpose of this document is to provide detailed instructions on trawl and benthic field sampling methods that will be used to conduct this study.

II. OVERVIEW OF FIELD SURVEY

A. Sampling Period

The index period for the Bight'08 study will extend from July 1 to September 30, 2008.

B. Sampling Design

The Bight'08 study will continue to use a probability-based sampling design developed by EMAP that combines the strengths of systematic and random sampling. This Generalized Random Tessellated Stratified (GRTS) sampling design creates a spatially balanced random sampling of resources. Intensified sampling in certain areas can be achieved by increasing inclusion probabilities. In order to assess temporal trends, 50% of the Bight'08 samples will be new sites while 25% of the sample site will be from Bight'98 and 25 % from Bight'03

Bight'08 has identified 11 different strata of stations that will be sampled in this survey. These strata are classified as follows: Channel Islands, shallow offshore (5-30 m), mid depth offshore (30-120 m), deep offshore (120-200 m), continental slope (200-500 m), lower slope and inner basin (500-1000 m), marinas, ports, bays, harbors, and embayments/lagoons.

C. Indicators of Ecosystem Health

The primary goal of Bight'08 is to provide an assessment of the overall ecosystem condition of the SCB. To accomplish this goal, the following indicators of ecosystem health will be examined:

- Benthic - sediment characteristics, sediment contamination, infaunal assemblages, and sediment toxicity;
- Demersal fish and invertebrate assemblages and gross fish pathology
- Marine debris (including plastic, lumber, vegetation, glass, etc.)

III. DESCRIPTION OF FIELD TEAMS AND ACTIVITIES

A. Personnel

All field sampling will be conducted by personnel knowledgeable in safe field sampling methodologies (*e.g.*, benthic sampling, trawling, etc.). Teams of field personnel will be on each research vessel participating in the sampling effort. These groups will vary in size depending on which organization is doing the field sampling. The main requirements are that the personnel on board the vessel:

- Have a good working experience with the different types of sampling devices;
- Have the knowledge and experience necessary for conducting the field collection and analysis of benthic invertebrates and sediments, and trawl-caught demersal fish and megabenthic invertebrates;
- Are able to troubleshoot problems when they arise.

B. Chain-of-Command

The following chain-of-command is recommended to avoid confusion, identify responsible parties, and ensure that proper sampling protocols and information flow are followed by each organization:

1) The Lead Scientist will be an organization's primary contact regarding all survey and field-related matters;

2) A Boat Captain will not only be responsible for piloting the sampling vessel each day, but will also have the sole authority to cease or continue sampling operations when conditions at sea are judged to be unsafe;

3) The Cruise Leader is a person designated prior to each sampling day, who will be responsible for supervising the scientific crew and sampling operations aboard a particular sampling vessel. This person will have the final decision on whether to abandon or sample a station, and will be responsible for assuring the quality of the data. At the end of each sampling day, they will make sure that all field data and samples are delivered to the appropriate processing personnel in a timely manner. Cruise Leaders are not required to be the same person from field day to field day;

4) Significant changes to the established logistical plan that are outside of the jurisdiction of the Lead Scientist will be communicated to either the Field Logistics Coordinator (Mike Kelly), or the Project Manager (Ken Schiff) before any change is implemented. The teams will accept technical direction from no other authority. All
changes to the sampling plan that occur during the field surveys must be

documented;

5) All technical matters, such as equipment problems, questions regarding station locations, sampling schedules, etc., will be addressed to the Field Logistics Coordinator by the Lead Scientist **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;**

6) The Lead Scientist of an organization having completed a pre-survey field audit will be informed of any procedural and/or taxonomic deficiencies field operations by the Auditor. The Lead Scientist will be expected to take the appropriate action to correct the situation as soon as possible.

C. Station Assignments

The study area of the Southern California Bight will be divided among the participating organizations according to the level of effort contributed by each. The number of stations to be sampled by each organization is summarized in Table 1. Maps and coordinates of the stations to be sampled by each organization are located in Appendices A and B, respectively.

Table 1. Number of stations (by sample type) to be sampled by organizations participating in the Bight'08 study, summer 2008.

Organization	Benthic Infauna	Sediment Chemistry	Sediment Toxicity	Fish Assemblage
CLAEMD	46	46	37	29
LACSD	29	29	6	13
OCSD	27	27	11	11
CSDMWWD	26	26	3	19
ABC	22	22	13	10
CINMS	30	30	0	0
WESTON	127	127	125	19
MBC	66	66	38	24
SEAVENT	0	0	0	6
VTRG	0	0	0	23

ORGANIZATION CODES

CLAEMD	City of Los Angeles, Environmental Monitoring Division
LACSD	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
OCSD	Orange County Sanitation Districts
CSDMWWD	City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department
ABC	Aquatic Bioassay & Consulting (City of Oxnard, L.A. Bays & Harbors)
CINMS	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
WESTON	Weston Solutions
MBC	MBC Applied Environmental Sciences
SEAVENT	SeaVentures
VTRG	Vantuna Research Group/Occidental College

D. Equipment

All groups or organizations involved in the sampling program will provide their own research vessel, crew, Van Veen grab, otter trawl, and any other equipment necessary to complete the sampling assignment. Characteristics of each vessel and a list of equipment used during the survey are provided in Appendix E.

Grab Sampler

Each organization will have a minimum of two modified Van Veen grab samplers for offshore stations. Each organization collecting sediment in the estuaries, bays, harbors and port will need to have at least two hand-held box core subsampling devices. Grab specifications are given in Section 8.

Trawl Nets

Each organization will have a sufficient number of 7.6 m (headrope) trawl nets and sets of otter boards (doors) available. Net and door specifications are given in Section 9.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are required to facilitate communication between the Cruise Leader on the sampling vessels and land based Bight'08 project personnel. Vessel mobile telephone numbers are listed in Appendix E.

E. Weekly Communications

Representatives from each participating organization will be required to provide SCCWRP (ATTENTION: Shelly Moore) with weekly if not more frequent schedules of proposed sampling activities prior to conducting operations in the field. This notification will include targeted sample types (benthic, trawl, toxicity, etc.), and the general area(s) where sampling is expected to occur. (**Note: participating toxicology laboratories should be notified at least one week in advance of any plans to collect and deliver samples to them**). Project QA/QC Auditors can also use this information to schedule when they can conduct field audits for a particular organization. Prior to a QA/QC audit, the auditor will contact a Lead Scientist to verify that their proposed schedule is still in place.

Each organization will at a minimum also be required to make weekly electronic submissions of the Bight'08 station occupation and event table information (*i.e.,* grab and trawl). This information will be used to verify that each field team is accurately and completely sampling each station, and track the overall progress of the project.

F. Important Telephone Numbers

The names and phone numbers of appropriate personnel and emergency services are listed in Section 13 and Appendix H. If a particular individual cannot be reached at the listed number, the caller should contact SCCWRP, where an attempt will be made to provide an alternate means by which the individual can be reached.

IV. SAFETY

Sample collection at sea is inherently hazardous and this danger is greatly compounded in bad weather. Thus, the safety of the crews and equipment is of paramount importance throughout the project. Each person working onboard a vessel during the project should take personal responsibility for their own safety.

Many accidents at sea are preventable. Safety awareness by the Boat Captain and all crew members is the greatest single factor that will reduce accidents at sea. Each field crew should follow all established rules and provisions within their respective organization's safety program. Sampling should be canceled or postponed during hazardous weather conditions. The final decision shall be made by the Boat Captain, who is responsible for the safety of everyone on board. As with any field program, the first priority is the safety of the people onboard, followed by the safety of the equipment, and then the recovery of the data.

V. QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL PROCEDURES

A. Protocol Calibration/Quality Assurance Procedures

The Bight'08 survey will be conducted cooperatively by a number of organizations which routinely monitor the marine environment according to established protocols. It is important to the success of the Bight'08 study that comparable data are collected by each organization. This Field Operations Manual will provide information on how field operations will be conducted to meet this requirement. The Lead Scientists and Boat Captains will be instructed on the field procedures to be followed during the survey and they, in turn, will instruct their field personnel on the proper procedures for the survey.

The Lead Scientist of each organization is responsible for distributing the Bight'08 Field Operations Manual to all field personnel and ensuring that their staff understands and uses the protocols detailed in the manual.

Lead Scientist/Boat Captain Protocol Orientation Meeting

Lead Scientists and Boat Captains of all organizations participating in the survey are encouraged to attend a protocol calibration meeting, conducted prior to the survey on June 24, 2008. The goals and objectives of the project will be discussed at this meeting, as will the responsibilities of the Bight'08 field personnel. Each participant will be provided with a Bight'08 Coastal Ecology Workplan, a Field Operations Manual and will be instructed on field procedures to be used during the survey. The discussion will also include instruction on proper data entry into the field computers and on field data forms. The meeting will emphasize decision-making procedures for determining station and/or sample acceptability, and the conditions that must be met before a station is abandoned. Lines of communication within the project and QA/QC activities occurring on the boat during the survey will also be discussed.

Scientific Team Training

The Lead Scientist from each organization will be responsible for ensuring that their field personnel have been trained properly on all field methods and procedures that will be used during the survey. It will be their responsibility to review the Coastal Ecology Workplan and Field Operations Manual with their field crews, and to make sure that each person understands that these procedures must be followed during the survey. Personnel that cannot perform a required operation will not participate in conducting that operation.

Benthic Sampling (See Section 8)

The participation of several different vessels and field sampling teams in Bight'08 requires that uniform procedures be followed in the field to ensure high quality samples and consistent results.

All field personnel will be provided with the Bight'08 Field Operations Manual and will be instructed on sampling procedures, application of sample acceptance criteria, sample processing,

and the use of field data forms. All participants are expected to understand and properly carry out all steps in the collection, screening, relaxation, and fixation of infaunal samples. They must also understand the techniques related to the subsampling of sediment, and the handling of sediment chemistry and toxicity samples.

Where necessary, pre-survey field audits will be conducted in an attempt to ascertain a particular organization's field sampling capability and their adherence to standard sampling and sample procedures. These audits will be conducted by representatives who have participated in past regional surveys and whose organization has adopted the prescribed field methods as standard operating procedures for routine monitoring. An audit will be completed for organizations that either did not participate in the Bight'03 field effort, or for organizations that did, but have undergone a significant turnover in personnel since that time.

If a pre-survey audit were deemed necessary, an Auditor will observe field crews performing the required field sampling procedures and processing, and as necessary, provide corrective instruction. Subsequent in-survey benthic sampling audits will not, however, be conducted during Bight'08.

The goal of the Bight'08 survey is to collect grabs at all sites. However, the Measurement Quality Objective (MQO) of 90% which had been established for completeness for the collection of benthic samples in earlier surveys will apply to the current effort. This completeness goal was established to derive the maximum statistical power of the sampling design and was not set at 100% in recognition that some sites will be difficult, if not impossible, to sample with a Van Veen grab. Nevertheless, field crews are expected to strive to collect samples at 100% of the stations.

Trawl Sampling (See Section 9)

Demersal fish and invertebrate assemblage data (species identification, enumeration, biomass, and length) are greatly influenced by the collection methods. Therefore, strict adherence to prescribed sampling protocols is critical. Fish catches are influenced by gear type and deployment, tow duration, and towing speed. All organizations collecting samples in the field must use standard nets and follow standard trawling procedures to ensure that comparable samples are collected. Field personnel will be provided with the Bight'08 Field Operations Manual. The Chief Scientist of each organization must make sure that their staff understands and uses the protocols as detailed in the manual.

Several QA/QC activities will help to ensure the quality of the trawl survey data. These include intercalibration cruises, checks of equipment, sample processing, and taxonomic identification. Trawl equipment, deployment, and sample processing protocols will be checked during pre-survey and in-survey visits to each vessel by the QA/QC Auditors. The Auditors will ensure that the
methods used are those prescribed in the Field Operations Manual.

The QA/QC Auditor will check trawling procedures and equipment to ensure that trawling is conducted in the same manner by each organization and that the appropriate data is recorded on a

Field QA/QC Checklist (Appendix H). The Auditor will check to make sure that the net is rigged properly, that the appropriate data are recorded, that the trawl is deployed and retrieved properly, and that the catch is properly processed. A check will also be made to see that the scales are calibrated at the start of each day, that other pertinent processing equipment are on board, and that processing is conducted according to methods described in the field manual (Appendix H). The Lead Scientist will be notified of the audit results so that any problems can be corrected prior to sampling.

Pre-survey trawl field audits will be necessary for organizations that either did not participate in Bight'03, or did and have since undergone a significant turnover in field personnel. Complete inventories and dimensions of their field equipment will be submitted to an Auditor prior to the survey to assess equipment, vessels, standard protocols, and, to determine whether the crew(s) will need to be instructed on the trawling procedures described in the manual. Audit data will be recorded on a Field QA/QC Checklist (Appendix H).

Lead Bight'08 fish and invertebrate taxonomists will be designated prior to the sampling period. In addition, each organization will identify lead fish and invertebrate taxonomists that will participate in their part of the survey. These individuals must have the required expertise in field identification of trawl-caught fishes and/or invertebrates of coastal southern California in depths ranging between 5-500 m. They will be responsible for providing accurate identifications of species collected during the survey and will complete/oversee a review of the voucher collections before they are shipped to SCCWRP.

While it is expected that the lead taxonomists of each organization will have a wide range of knowledge of the common caught trawl species, it is not expected that all persons making field identifications will know every species. It is, therefore, very important to avoid guessing when finalizing any particular identification. An error made in the identification of an organism may result in an irretrievable error in the database because most of the organisms that are identified in the field are returned to the sea. If no one onboard knows the identity of a specimen, that specimen shall be returned to the laboratory for final identification. Once the final identity of any specimen has been ascertained in the organization's laboratory, that change will be made on either the trawl fish, or the invertebrate species sheets by crossing out the original name (do not erase the original name) and writing the correct name. Conversely, if it has been determined that a species cannot be identified at the organization's laboratory, it should be sent to SCCWRP along with the voucher specimens for identification.

Three QA/QC activities will help to ensure accurate taxonomic identification of fishes and invertebrates by providing training and intercalibration among organizations:

1) Prior to the survey, a list of recommended taxonomic identification aids will be distributed to participating organizations. Lists of trawl-caught fish and invertebrate species for southern California will also be distributed. A reference collection of voucher specimens of species collected during former Bight surveys is available at SCCWRP for individuals wishing to see species likely to be encountered in Bight'08. In addition, it is recommended (but not required) that

field taxonomists attend one or more of the pre-survey information transfer meetings given at SCCWRP on the identification of expected trawl species;

2) Taxonomists from every field sampling organization will be required to participate in at least one pre-survey intercalibration cruise to ensure that identifications of commonly occurring species are standardized.

3) Taxonomists from each organization will also be required to participate in another pre-survey intercalibration exercise meant to assess the probability of taxonomic error in the field. In this exercise, a bucket of fish and a bucket of invertebrates will be passed between all participating organizations prior to the survey. The taxonomists will identify specimens of representative trawl-caught species in each bucket to the lowest taxon possible. A numbered tag will be attached to each organism so that the identifications can be checked against the correct specimens. This exercise will focus on identification errors. Correct identifications or "Return for Further Identification" (FID) are acceptable. FID indicates that the specimen would have been returned to the laboratory (where additional information or expertise can be found) for final identification. Organizations with more than 5% misidentifications (fish and invertebrates combined) will redo the exercise with a different bucket of organisms. If an organization cannot meet this requirement on the second attempt, a qualified taxonomist from another organization must be on board when trawl sampling is conducted.

Measurement Quality Objectives (MQOs) for the trawl fish and invertebrate sampling effort are defined in terms of accuracy, precision, and completeness. Acceptability criteria have been established for trawl sample collections. The goal of the Bight'08 trawl survey is to collect samples at all designated trawl stations to identify all of the organisms correctly, and to obtain accurate counts, measurements and weights on all species. However, the MQOs will be set at lower values in recognition of the realities of field sampling. Because some stations may occur on rocky bottom, the MQOs for the study completeness objective for trawl sample collection will be 90%. Of the samples collected, 100% will be processed, identified, counted, measured, and weighed. Accuracy expectations for the crew performance are 95% for identification and 90% for counting, lengths, and biomass. The precision objectives are 90% for fish lengths and within 0.2 kg for biomass.

VI. FIELD COMPUTER

A. General Requirements

A field computer will be used whenever possible to collect station occupation/visual observation data during the Bight'08 survey. If a field computer cannot be used, all required sampling event information must be recorded on Bight'08 field data sheets and subsequently loaded into Microsoft Excel data files for submission to the Bight'08 Information Manager. Data submission formats and standards are described in the Bight'08 Information Management Plan.

Bight'08 Field Data System Version 1.0.2

A field data acquisition application had been developed by SCCWRP and LACSD for use during the Bight'03 survey and subsequently refined for Bight'08. This system facilitates the collection of all the required station occupation and field sampling event information (*e.g.*, grab, trawls, and water quality sampling events). This system has been designed to be used on laptop computers and has an instruction manual for training and reference. Use of the Bight'08 Field Data System is strongly recommended as the system of choice during the survey.

The Field Data System has the following characteristics and features:

- Runs in Windows XP, 2000, or Vista OS environments;
- Stores data in an MS Access 2000, 2003 or 2007 application;
- Receives direct input of data from DGPS through serial port assuring that all samples are associated with accurate location information and eliminating transcription error associated with hand-written entry of these data;
- Provides data entry templates for all sampling event information required by Bight'08 Information Management Plan;
- Employs drop down lists of acceptable values for many entry fields, thereby reducing entry time and assuring accuracy and compliance with Bight'08 data standards;
- Capable of producing fully completed hardcopy Bight'08 field sampling data sheets which can be used for data backup;
- Produces export data files of all sampling event information in Bight'08 compliant Microsoft Excel files suitable for direct submission to the project Information Manager;
- Capable of being used as simple data entry system for information collected at sea on paper field sampling data sheets, or may be used as a primary data collection tool

VII. SAMPLING LOGISTICS

A. Navigation

Accurate location of sampling sites is crucial to the success of the Bight'08 survey. Station charts and coordinates (latitude and longitude) are located in Appendices A through C. Vessel positioning will be determined by means of a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS). If, during the course of a field sampling day, the differential signal is interrupted or lost, sampling may continue using standard GPS. If a vessel with an integrated GPS is not available to work within the four types of inner coastal strata, using a hand held device is an acceptable substitute.

B. Sampling Schedule

The benthic and trawl surveys may begin July 1, 2008. All field work may be completed in the order that each organization sees fit, as long as the survey is completed by September 30, 2008.

All samples will be collected between sunrise and sunset, with the exception of sediment chemistry and sediment toxicity; those samples may be collected anytime throughout the 24 hour period. Otter trawl samples must be collected between one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset.

C. Station Types

Stations located within eleven different strata will be sampled during the survey. These strata are classified as follows: Channel Islands, shallow offshore (5-30 m), mid depth offshore (30-120 m), deep offshore (120-200 m), continental slope (200-500 m), lower slope and inner basin (500-1000 m), marinas, ports, bays, harbors, and embayments/lagoons.

The project sampling station/stratum information is listed in Appendix B. In the event that relocating a station moves the station into a different sampling stratum, the station will still be sampled and the new stratum will be noted in the comments section of the field data sheet.

D. Site Acceptability Criteria

The location of each sampling site will be designated in advance as a set of coordinates (latitude and longitude). Upon arrival at the site, the depth will be determined by fathometer. This will be regarded as the target depth for all subsequent sampling at the site during the survey and will be used for determining site acceptability. While all sites are single points defined by latitude and longitude, occupation within a specified distance (*i.e.*, the radius limit) of the target coordinates will be considered acceptable. This radius limit will be 100 m for all sites except those within the island stratum, where the radius limit will be 200 m because of the greater extent of rocky bottoms surrounding the Channel Islands

Sampling may not be possible at some sites for a variety of reasons (*e.g.*, kelp beds, rocky bottom, falling outside depth range of stratum, otherwise obstructed or unapproachable, etc.

Sites may be
abandoned if they fail to meet site acceptability criteria, or if samples at the site fail to meet sample acceptance criteria. The criteria and process guiding this assessment are described below and summarized as a decision tree in Figure 1 (benthic sites) and Figure 2 (trawl sites).

1. Occupy the target coordinates as closely as possible.

2. If occupation is not possible within the radius limit due to physical obstructions (*e.g.,* harbor facilities), or access prohibitions (*e.g.,* harbor security closures), or if the site target coordinates fall on land, or if the salinity is < 19 ppt (at estuary stratum sites), abandon the site and record the reason for abandonment in the field computer or on a field data sheet.

3. For benthic sites, if occupation is possible but the target coordinates lie over bottom that cannot be sampled (*e.g.,* rocky reef or within kelp bed, is beyond the depth limits of the survey, is beyond the capability of a particular sampling vessel, etc.) as determined by visual observation and fathometer survey, attempt to find an acceptable occupation within the radius limit. Check at least one other site. If an acceptable occupation is not possible, abandon site and record the reason for abandonment in field computer, or on a field data sheet. If intermittent success is achieved, a minimum of 9 attempts is required before abandoning the site. The Cruise Leader can choose to continue sampling beyond the ninth attempt if it is decided the effort is warranted.

4. For trawl sites, a pre-trawl fathometer survey should be conducted to determine if a trawlable track of approximately 600 m passes the target site within the radius limits. If that survey identifies unsuitable substrate or if the site is deemed otherwise unsuitable for trawling by the Cruise Leader the site should be abandoned.

5. If an acceptable occupation is possible, proceed with sampling.

6. Sample acceptance criteria are described for benthic sampling in Section 8 and for trawling in Section 9 and are summarized in the decision tree Figures 1 and 2.

E. Site Rejection Strategy

A sampling site may be rejected if any of the following occurs:

1. If the location places the site on land or in an obviously unsuitable location.

2. If the site exceeds the depth boundaries (+/- 10 % established depth boundary and within 1 m in estuaries).

3. For benthic sites, if suitable substrate cannot be found after three grabs at the

nominal location, and up to three attempts at second location, the station will be abandoned completely. Adequately record the reason(s) for abandonment in the field computer, or on the field data sheet.

4. For trawl sites, if the fathometer survey identifies unsuitable substrate at three locations within the radius limit, if any equipment is lost or damaged, or if the site is deemed unsuitable by the Cruise Leader, the site will be abandoned completely. Adequately record the reason(s) for abandonment in the field computer, or on the field data sheet.

F. Collection Permits

Prior to collecting fish and invertebrate specimens in the field, each organization must contact their local office of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The caller will be asked for his or her name, scientific collector's permit number, date, time, and area of sampling, type of gear to be used, vessel size, color, CF number (or documentation), number of persons in party, and organisms targeted for collection. This information can also be faxed to the local CDFG office prior to sampling. Both the permit and the permit holder must be onboard during sampling and it must be presented to any CDFG warden, or personnel who request to see it. The phone and fax numbers of the local offices of the CDFG are listed in the next section.

G. Contact Information

It is recommended that all groups conducting field work in harbors ports and marinas contact local security prior to attempting fieldwork in the area. Prior experience suggests that you contact the security several days prior to the work through their central numbers, then again the day of operations, through dispatch if possible. Have an idea of where you will be working and when, and note the names and date on which you called a particular agency. If you fax in information, have a copy with you in the field, and always have your collecting permit – security may never have seen one before, but it does help to be able to show a permit for the activities.

In the Port of LA call the Wharfinger and Port Police, and in the Port of Long Beach call the Harbor Police and leave a message with the City Police. The Port Pilots have been included to notify them of trawling operations and check traffic planning. It is very important in the Ports to notify the Coast Guard Waterway Management of sampling plans, since the USCG is likely to be first to respond if you are reported.

It is also recommend that the USCG be informed of all nearshore sampling activity. USCG permission is needed to enter some security areas before sampling. Navy or Marine permission may also be needed.

OXNARD/VENTURA/SANTA BARBARA

Dept. of Fish and Game LA Region		(562) 342-7100	(562) 342-7139fax

US Coast Guard		
Channel Islands Coast Guard	805-985-9822	
Santa Barbara Harbor		
Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol	805-564-5530	
Ventura Harbor		
Ventura Harbor Patrol	805-642-8538	805-642-8618 0600-0200hr
VHF radio channel 16		
Ventura Lifeguards	805-648-3321	
Channel Islands Harbor		
Channel Islands Harbor Patrol	805-382-3007 and 805-382-3011	
Emergency line:	805-382-3000	
VHF radio channel:	16, 12 and 73	
Channel Islands Coast Guard	805-985-9822	
Port Hueneme		
Oxnard Harbor District	805-488-3677	
Navy	805-982-4284	
Mugu Lagoon		
Pt. Mugu Security Dispatcher	805-989-7907	

SANTA MONICA/LA PORTS/LONG BEACH/ORANGE COUNTY

Dept. of Fish and Game LA Region	(562) 342-7100	(562) 342-7139fax
USCG Waterway Management		
USCG LA Region	310-521-3860	310-521-3869fax
VTS	Channel 14	
In POLA/POLB Bridge to Bridge	Channel 13	
Santa Monica Bay Area		
King Harbor Harbor Patrol	310-318-0632	310-374-2286fax
Marina Del Rey Harbor Patrol	310-823-7762	
Manhattan/Hermosa Beach Lifeguards	310-372-2166	310-372-6902fax
Redondo Lifeguards	310-372-2162	

Los Angeles Harbor/POLA

Los Angeles Wharfinger	310-732-3810	310-521-8917fax
LA Port Police	310-732-3491	310-831-3689fax
Los Angeles Pilot	310-732-3805	310-519-9189fax
	notify and monitor on 73	
Los Angeles City Lifeguards	213-485-5162	
Marine Exchange	310-519-3134	310-241-0300fax

Long Beach Harbor/POLB

Long Beach Wharfinger	562-590-4180	562-901-1731fax
Long Beach Police Dept. (leave msg if no ans.)	562-570-7182 msg	
LB Harbor Security	562-590-4185	562-436-5590fax
Long Beach Pilots - Field office	562-432-0664	562-432-3597fax
notify and monitor on 12 and/or 74		
Long Beach Pilots - Main Office	562-435-5435	
ask for Capt. Strong or Capt. Jacobson		
City of Long Beach Police Dispatch	562-435-6711	
	(San Gabriel River work notification)	

Long Beach Downtown Marina/Alamitos Bay

Long Beach Marine Patrol		
Non-emergency patrol dispatch	562-435-6711	562-570-3249fax
Administration	562-570-3245	0700-1700hr
E-Mail:	marinepatrol@longbeach.gov	

Orange County Harbors

Orange County Sheriff's Harbor Patrol Division		
Sunset / Huntington Harbor	714-840-5222	
Newport Harbor	949-723-1002	
Dana Point Harbor	949-248-2222	
Seal Beach Lifeguards	562-431-3567	562-598-8560fax
Huntington Beach Lifeguards	714-536-1454	714-536-0074fax

SAN DIEGO REGION

Dept. of Fish and Game	SD Region	858-467-4201
	858-467-4299fax	

US Coast Guard

USCG San Diego Region	619-683-6495

SONGS Area

SONGS Security Zone extends 1 nautical mile radius. See below.

Need authorization from SD USCG Captain of the Port to enter, transit, or anchor. Only SONGS Security can initiate the request for authorization.

Pendleton Area Marine Activity Exclusion Zones

Two restricted navigation areas have been established offshore of Camp Pendleton for military training and activities. Between the downcoast of the mouth of the Santa Margarita River and the upcoast edge of the Oceanside Harbor breakwater, a restricted area extends 1,800 m offshore. Any activity in this restricted area that may endanger underwater installments such as anchoring, fishing or trawling is prohibited at all times. Traffic may cross the area if the vessel maintains a direct route without delay. A second restricted area occurs north of the Santa Margarita River for most of the length of Camp Pendleton. This is a military exercise area, which cautions mariners of activity between 0600 and 2400 hrs

Oceanside Harbor

Harbor Police	760-435-4050

Mission Bay

Mission Bay Harbor Patrol	619-531-2000
Lifeguard Business Office	619-221-8899
Mission Bay Harbor Unit	619-221-8985

San Diego Bay

San Diego Bay Harbor Police	619-686-6272
Navy Patrol Operations	619-556-6662

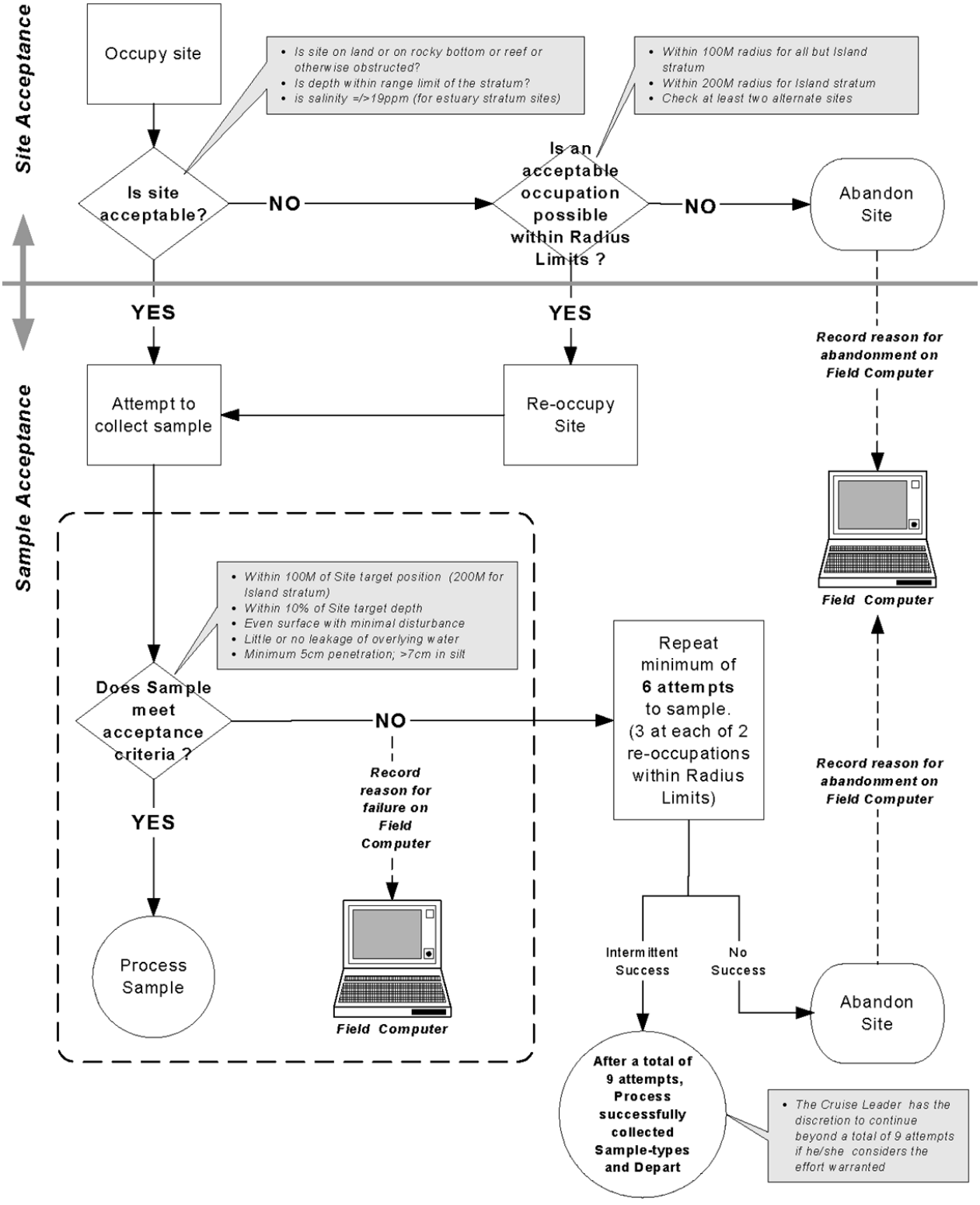

Figure 1. Benthic sampling site and sample acceptance process.

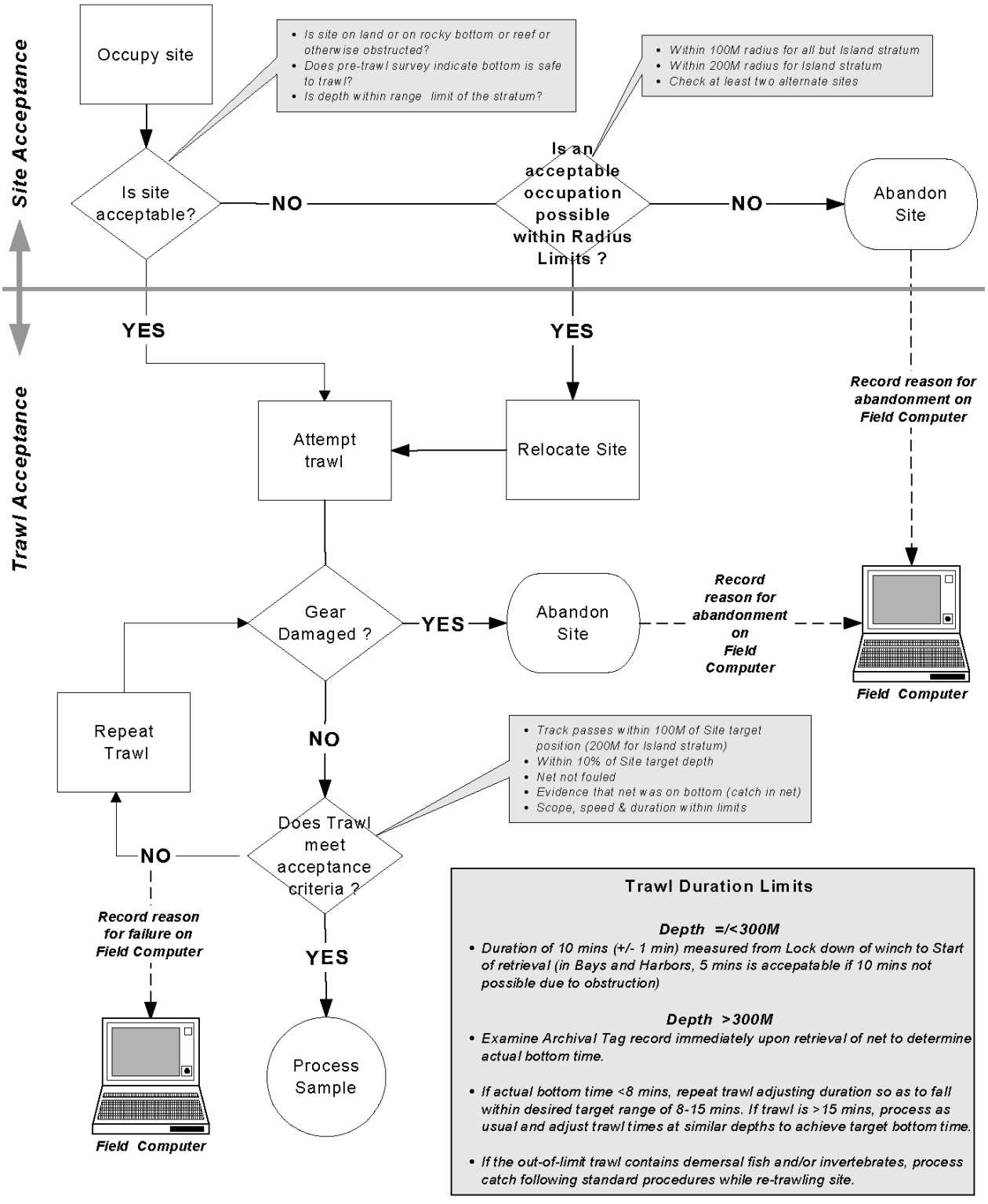

Figure 2. Trawl sampling site and sample acceptance process.

VIII. BENTHIC SAMPLING

A. Purpose

The purpose of benthic sampling is to obtain data on localized community structure of infaunal invertebrate assemblages, the surrounding sediment chemistry characteristics and contaminant load from specific sampling sites. The pooled information is useful in determining not only the distribution, abundance and diversity of infaunal organisms, but also whether the observed community patterns have been influenced by environmental and/or anthropogenic perturbations.

New for Bight'08, samples collected in bay or estuary habitats will be subsampled to determine comparability of benthic infauna results from a smaller surface area sampler with those from van Veen samples in these environments. Benthic sediments will continue to be collected by van Veen for the Bight '08 survey, but positive results from this special project could lead to considerable savings in time and effort in future Bight sampling and has potential applications for SQO methodologies and simplification of benthic sampling in these habitats, particularly in very shallow estuarine areas.

B. Sampling Effort

A total of 384 benthic stations will be sampled during the survey. Table 1 and Appendices A and B provide information on the total number of stations and the parameters that will be sampled by each participating organization.

C. Van Veen Grab

A 0.1 m^2 modified Van Veen grab will be used to collect sediment samples for physical, chemical, and infaunal analyses (Stubbs et al. 1987). This device is manufactured by a number of vendors among which include the University of Washington and SeaVentures (Ken Nielsen and John Carr). The grab may be constructed of galvanized, stainless, or Teflon-coated steel. All surfaces of the grab must be clean and free of rust. Either single or tandem Van Veen grabs are acceptable.

D. Hand-Held Box Core Subsampler

Each infauna grab collected in Embayment and Estuary strata in Bight '08 will be subsampled using two 0.01 m^2 subcores.

E. Grab Sampling Procedures

Van Veen Grab

Prior to deployment, the grab is cocked with the safety key in place. The grab is then hoisted over the side, the safety key is removed. The grab is lowered at up to 2 m/sec until it is approximately 5 m above the bottom, then lowered at 1 m/sec to minimize the effects of bow

wave disturbance of the surface sediment. In water depths greater than 300 m, the rate of deployment may have to be reduced to <1 m/sec in order to avoid "kiting" of the grab and/or premature tripping in the water column. After bottom contact has been made (indicated by slack in the winch wire), the tension on the wire is slowly increased, causing the lever arms to close the grab. Once the grab is back on board, the top doors are opened for inspection.

While a radius limit of 100 m (200 m for island stratum) has been established for site occupancy, once sampling has begun, the Cruise Leader will ensure that the vessel is maintained on station with as much precision as conditions allow. Because analytical results from separate grab samples will be used to characterize the benthic community biointegrity, contaminant load and, in many cases, toxicity of the sediment, each successive grab must be collected as close as possible to the others.

Hand-Held Box Core Subsampling Methods

Subsampling Van Veen grabs will be accomplished using two 0.01 m^2 subcores (Fractions A and B), with the remaining sediment in the grab considered Fraction C. Each fraction will be processed separately then labeled with the proper suffix (A, B, or C) added to the Station Number (i.e., 8475A).

To subsample the grab, open one top flap, make sure the bottom of the hand-held corer (core) matches the slope of the grab jaw, align the core at the flap hinge and insert it through the sediment with a single, downward push until the bottom touches the grab bottom. Repeat with second core on the other side before removing the first core. Once started, a core should not be removed and reinserted so that sample fractions will not be mixed. If it is not possible to subcore because of rocks or debris in the grab, abandon that core and leave that side of the grab in place to be processed and analyzed with Fraction C (label should now read 8475B+C, and record this in sample log comments).

After inserting both cores, hold the core in place and push the closing slider into place. The slider should be marked to indicate when the core is closed. Close the second core using the same method. Holding the subcore by the top handle, gently rock it back and forth and slowly extract it from the surrounding sediment in the grab. Scrape and rinse any material adhering to the outside of the core back into the Van Veen for inclusion in Fraction C. Since the closing mechanism is not meant to completely seal the sediment within the core, do not delay transferring it to the screen box. These methods are still under development, and input from all users is appreciated and should be shared among groups during the collection process if possible.

Process the subcore sample in a manner consistent with Bight infauna methods and label accordingly.

F. Priority of Grab Sampling

The priority of sampling at a site is 1) infauna, 2) sediment chemistry and grain size, and 3) sediment toxicity. If it is impossible to obtain all three sample types at a station, those samples

successfully collected shall be processed and retained. Only those samples meeting the sample acceptance criteria and sample volume requirements (for sediment chemistry and toxicity) are considered to be successfully sampled.

G. Criteria for Acceptable Grab Samples

Site acceptance criteria and procedures are described in Section 7. Both site and sample acceptance criteria are summarized as a decision tree in Figure 1.

Once a site has been successfully occupied grab sampling may still prove impossible or very difficult. Different sediment types (*e.g.* cobble, gravel, well-sorted sands, etc.) and localities (*e.g.* canyons, slopes, and rocky areas) may be difficult to sample. Sediments containing rocks often create the most common problem by preventing complete closure of the grab and allowing sediment to wash out during retrieval. The randomized sampling design may cause some of the Bight'08 sampling sites to occur on these difficult sediment types or localities. Therefore, if after three consecutive unsuccessful grab attempts at a site and up to three more consecutive unsuccessful attempts at a second location (within the radius limit and +/-10% of the depth of the target site or 1 m in estuaries), the station should be abandoned and the reason noted in the field computer or on a datasheet.

If sampling success at a particular station is inconsistent, the site may be abandoned after a minimum of nine (9) attempts. In this case, only the successfully (complete) collected sample types should be processed and retained. These are the minimum efforts justifying site abandonment. Sampling failures due to operational error (*e.g.*, premature tripping) do not count towards this minimal effort. The Cruise Leader has the discretion to make a greater effort if he/she feels that it is warranted. The reason for site abandonment must be documented in the field computer or on the field data sheets.

Upon retrieval of the grab, the acceptability of the sample must be determined. Acceptability is based upon two characteristics of the sample: sample condition and depth of penetration. Sample condition is judged using criteria for surface disturbance, leakage, canting, and washing (Figure 3).

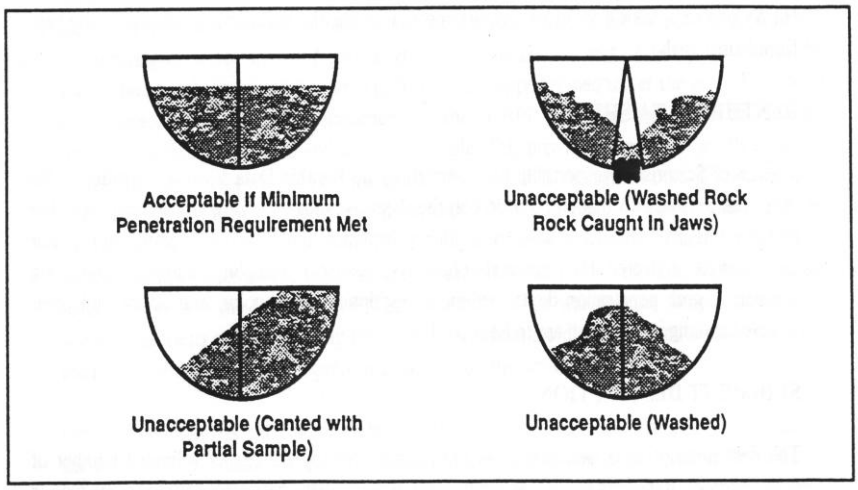

Figure 3. Examples of acceptable and unacceptable grab sample condition (from Tetra Tech 1986).

An acceptable sample condition is characterized by an even surface with minimal disturbance and little or no leakage of the overlying water. Heavily canted samples are unacceptable. Samples with a large amount of "humping" along the midline of the grab, which indicates washing of the sample during retrieval, are also unacceptable. While some humping will be evident in samples taken from firm sediment where penetration has been poor, this is can be due to the closing action of the grab and is not necessarily evidence of unacceptable washing.

If the sample condition is acceptable, the overlying water is drained off and the depth of penetration determined by insertion of a plastic (rather than metal) ruler vertically along the grab midline and measuring to the nearest 0.5 cm. Sediment penetration depth must be at least 5 cm: however, penetration depths of 7-10+ cm should be obtained in silt (fine sand to clay). In habitats where sediments are unusually soft (*e.g.*, some estuary muds), it may be necessary to remove the lead weights to prevent over-topping the grab.

Extra caution should be taken to drain the overlying water from the grabs for chemistry and toxicity samples. It is recommended that a siphon be employed for these grabs to avoid disturbance and loss of the surface sediments. The overlying water in grabs intended for infaunal samples may be drained by slightly opening the jaws of the grab and allowing the water to run off, as long as all drained water is captured for screening with the sediments (see Sample Processing below).

If both sample condition and penetration are acceptable in the first grab, sampling at the station will proceed with the collection of chemistry and then sediment toxicity samples from successive grabs. **It is required that all of the grabs taken at a station be of similar sediment type and depth penetration.**

H. Benthic Sampling Event Data

The Cruise Leader is responsible for collecting all of the required information associated with each station occupation and each grab sampling event. While the Field Computer is the preferred method of collecting these data, paper data forms may be used (Appendix F). The required station occupation information includes:

- Station ID
- Date
- Time of day
- Agency code
- Vessel name
- System used for Navigation
- Weather and sea conditions
- Salinity (at sites in the Estuary stratum)
- Station fail code (if site is abandoned)

The required grab event information includes:

- Time of day for event (when grab on bottom)
- Latitude and Longitude at time of event (when grab on bottom)
- Depth of water (when grab on bottom)
- Distance from station target location (when grab on bottom)
- Fail code (if sample fails to meet sample acceptance criteria, see Field Sheets or Information Management Plan for codes)
- Penetration
- Sediment composition (type)
- Sediment odor
- Sediment color
- Presence of shell hash (note if 50% or greater)
- Sample types produced from sediment grab
- Whether subcores were collected

I. Sediment Description

The field description of sediments is required following measurement of penetration depth. The sediment should be characterized as being coarse sand, fine sand, silt or clay, gravel, or of a mixed type. The presence of petroleum tar and shell hash should also be recorded. Obvious odors, such as hydrogen sulfide (the odor of rotten eggs), petroleum, other odors, or a lack of noticeable odors should be recorded. General sediment colors (*i.e.*, black, green, brown, red, olive, or gray) should also be recorded.

J. Sample Processing

Benthic Infaunal Samples

After the sample description has been completed, the sediment sample intended for biological analysis is washed from the grab and screened. Raw water used to wash the samples is to be filtered in some fashion to prevent the accidental introduction of surface-water organisms. Thoroughly wash the sediment from the grab and transfer it to a sediment-washing table (screen box, etc.) for screening. An alternative sieving method for small vessels without wash water would involve semi-submerging the sieve overboard and swirling it in the water (taking care to prevent the loss of grab organisms and/or the introduction of surface water organisms) until the sediment washes away.

In the estuary stratum, the necessity of sampling from small craft may not permit onboard screening of the sediment. In these cases the samples may be screened and processed on land at a screening station temporarily established near the sampling location. To assure that the sample does not deteriorate, such "off-site" screening must be completed as soon as possible and no longer than 90 minutes after sample collection.

All the water drained from the grab and use to wash the crab must be captured and subsequently processed through screening. Typically, a tub ($\geq$70 L capacity) is positioned under the grab. The use of a sediment-washing table is recommended, but not required. The table is useful in that provides a flat, smooth surface over which to spread and wash the sample, thereby providing a means of gently breaking up the sediment before it runs off the end of the table into the screen box. The screening box must be equipped with a stainless steel mesh with 1.0-mm openings. Wire diameter should be similar to that found in the U.S. Standard 1.00 mm Sieve (*i.e.*, 0.58 mm). The surface area of the screen should be adequate to easily accept the sample without build up. Typical surface areas used in surveys in the Bight are 1500 to 2100 cm^2. While washing the sample, control the water pressure to avoid damaging the organisms. Minimize direct application of water from the hose to the material and organisms collecting on the screen.

Once the sample has been washed through the screen, transfer the material (debris, coarse sediment, and organisms) retained on the screen to a sample container. Label the sample container with an external label containing the station name, sample type, date, and "split number" (*i.e.*, 1 of 1, 2 of 3, etc.). An internal label bearing the same information is placed inside the infaunal samples. This label can be written in pencil or indelible ink on 100% rag paper, poly-paper, or other paper of a quality suitable for wet labels. The sample container must have a screw-cap closure and be sufficiently large to accommodate the sample material with a head-space of at least 30% of the container volume. A sample may be split between two or more containers. However, each container must have external and internal labels (as described above) with the appropriate "split number" clearly marked. Field crews should have a broad range of sample container sizes available to them, with none less than 16 oz (0.47 L) capacity.

Gently remove the material retained on the screen, taking care to avoid damaging the organisms. The sample container should be filled to approximately 50 to 70% of capacity with screened material. After the bulk of material has been transferred to the container, closely examine the

screen for any organisms caught in the mesh. Remove any organisms with forceps and add them to the sample container. Thoroughly wash the screen box and scrub the mesh before the next sample is screened.

All infaunal samples will be treated with a relaxant solution for approximately 30 minutes prior to fixation. Either an Epsom salts ($MgSO_4$) solution or a propylene phenoxytol solution (formulations below) may be used for this purpose. Relaxant solutions may be used as the diluent water for the fixative, or may be decanted after exposure and replaced with 10% buffered formalin. If it is used as diluent water, fill the sample container to 85 to 90% of its volume, close the container and invert it several times to distribute the solution. Leave the sample in the relaxant for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, top off the container with enough sodium borate buffered formaldehyde to achieve a 10% formalin solution. Close the container, once again, and invert it several times to assure mixing. Store the sample for return to the laboratory.

If the relaxant solution is not used as the diluent water, the relaxant must be removed from the sample container and replaced with 10% buffered formalin. After the 30 minutes of treatment, decant the relaxant from the sample through a screen with a mesh size of 1.0 mm or less. Insure that all animals are removed from the screen and placed in the sample container. Fill the container with sodium borate buffered 10% formalin rather than undiluted formaldehyde, then close the container, invert it several times and store it for return to the laboratory.

Relaxant and fixative stock solution alternatives are as follows:

1)	Epsom salts relaxant solution:	1.5 kg Epsom salts ($MgSO_4$ @ $7H_2O$) per 20 L of freshwater.
2)	Propylene phenoxytol solution:	30 ml propylene phenoxytol to 20 L of seawater.
3)	Buffered formalin solution:	50 g sodium borate ($Na_2B_4O_7$) per liter of formalin.
4)	Buffered 10% formalin solution:	1 part buffered formalin to 9 parts fresh or salt water.

Sediment Chemistry Samples

Following collection of benthic infauna, the next grab(s) will be taken for sediment chemistry samples. More than one grab may be necessary to meet the sample volume requirements of this sample type. If a second grab is necessary, the sediment from each grab will be distributed evenly among the individual sample containers. Sediment samples will be collected using the top **2 cm** of the undisturbed surface material **at the offshore** sites and the top **5 cm at the inner coastal stations** (bays, harbors, estuaries, etc.). Sediment will be collected using a stainless steel scoop (a plastic scoop is acceptable for TOC, grain size and foram samples). Scoops will be washed with seawater and rinsed with de-ionized (DI) water between stations. Use of a new scoop with each sample is also acceptable. Sediment in contact with or within 1 cm of the metal

sides of the grab will be avoided to prevent sample contamination.

The following container types, samples sizes, and storage requirements will be used with the analytical laboratory supplying all sample containers for all parameters (see Appendix G for summary sediment chemistry guide)

1) **Sediment Grain Size**-- Using a stainless steel or plastic scoop, approximately 100 g of sediment material will be collected at each station. . The sample shall be placed in a 4-oz (118 ml) plastic container, filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. Samples should be stored at approximately 4^{o} C by placing them on wet ice or in a refrigerator until returned to the laboratory. **Do not freeze these samples.** They should be returned to the analytical laboratory within a week of sampling.

2) **Total Organic Carbon/Nitrogen**-- Using a stainless steel or plastic scoop, approximately 200 g of sediment material will be collected at each station. The sample shall be placed in an 8-oz (~250 ml) glass container with a Teflon-lined lid filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them on wet ice or in a refrigerator, but must be frozen within 24 hours. If frozen, they should be returned to the laboratory within a week; if not, they should be returned to the analytical laboratory within 24 hours.

3) **Trace Metals**-- Using a stainless steel scoop, approximately 200 g of surface sediment will be collected at each station. The sample shall be placed in an 8-oz (~250 ml) glass container with a Teflon-lined lid, filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them on wet ice or in a refrigerator but must be frozen within 24 hours. If frozen, they should be returned to the laboratory within a week; if not, they should be returned to the analytical laboratory within 24 hours.

4) **Trace Organics**-- Using a stainless steel scoop, approximately 200 g of sediment material will be collected at each station The sample shall be placed in an 8-oz (~250 ml) glass container with a Teflon-lined lid, filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them on wet ice or in a refrigerator but must be frozen within 24 hours. If frozen, they should be returned to the laboratory within a week. If not frozen, they should be returned to the analytical laboratory within 24 hours.

5) **Pyrethroid pesticides--** Using a stainless steel scoop, approximately 200 g of sediment material will be collected at each station. The sample shall be placed in an 8-oz (~250 ml) glass container with a Teflon-lined lid, filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them on wet ice or in a refrigerator but must be frozen within 24 hours. If

frozen, they should be returned to the laboratory within a week. If not frozen, they should be returned to the analytical laboratory within 24 hours.

6) **Domoic Acid/total P) –** Using a stainless steel scoop, approximately 100 g of sediment material will be collected at each station. The sample shall be placed in an 4-oz (~125 ml) glass container with a Teflon-lined lid, filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them on wet ice or in a refrigerator but must be frozen within 24 hours. If frozen, they should be returned to the laboratory within a week. If not frozen, they should be returned to the analytical laboratory within 24 hours.

7) **PBDE--** Using a stainless steel scoop, approximately 200 g of sediment material will be collected at each station. The sample shall be placed in an 8-oz (~250 ml) glass container with a Teflon-lined lid, filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them on wet ice or in a refrigerator but must be frozen within 24 hours. If frozen, they should be returned to the laboratory within a week. If not frozen, they should be returned to the analytical laboratory within 24 hours.

8) **Forams--** Scoop 150 g from top 2 cm of sediment into a whirlpak (~1/3 full) and top off with enough sample water to keep moist. Sample can be taken from edge of grab normally avoided for chemistry samples. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them in a refrigerator. The samples should be returned to the laboratory within a week and then shipped to the analytical laboratory as soon as possible.

9) **Emerging Contaminants--** Using a stainless steel scoop, approximately 200 g of sediment material will be collected at each station. The sample shall be placed in an 8-oz (~250 ml) glass container with a Teflon-lined lid, filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. The scoop should be re-rinsed with methanol and stored in a ziplock type (uncolored) plastic bag. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them on wet ice or in a refrigerator but must be frozen within 24 hours. If frozen, they should be returned to the laboratory within a week. If not frozen, they should be returned to the analytical laboratory within 24 hours.

10) **Sediment Bacteria--** Using a stainless steel scoop, approximately 200 g of sediment material will be collected at each station. The sample shall be placed in an 8-oz (~250 ml) glass container with a Teflon-lined lid, filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. The scoop should be re-rinsed with methanol and stored in a ziplock type (uncolored) plastic bag. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them on wet ice. Return to the laboratory the same day and ship to the analytical laboratory within 24 hours (Note: 3 L of near bottom water must be collected as part of this sampling. Pour water into 1 L polypropylene storage containers, leaving at least 3 cm (~1 inch) head space, and

store cold (do not freeze). Label all containers with sample type, location, time, date, and collectors initial. NOAA will ship coolers, sterile scoops, sterile 250 ml polypropylene bottles, and sterile 3 liter polypropylene containers to the appropriate agency. If possible, on the same day of collection, drop-off coolers with samples on blue ice or double bagged wet ice at the nearest Fedex location (usually before 5 pm). Include a chain of custody form and seal coolers for shipping. Send samples overnight to a NOAA analytical lab (NOAA, NOS, CCEHBR Lab c/o Janet Moore; 219 Ft. Johnson Rd.; Charleston, SC 29412-9110).

11) **Sediment Toxicity/Chemistry Comparison--** Using a stainless steel scoop, approximately 200 g of sediment material will be collected at selected sediment toxicity stations. The sample shall be collected incrementally from successive sediment toxicity grabs and placed in an 8-oz (~250 ml) glass container with a Teflon-lined lid, filling it 80% full, taking care to leave an air space at the top. Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by placing them on wet ice or in a refrigerator but must be frozen within 24 hours. Ship samples to SCCWRP within a week.

12) **Irgarol--** Using a stainless steel scoop, approximately 100 g of sediment material will be collected at selected stations. The sediment can be taken from the edge of the grab normally avoided for other chemistry samples. The sample shall be placed in an 125 ml glass container with a Teflon-lined lid, filling it 80% full, and taking care to leave an air space at the top. I L of surface water will be collected as well and placed in the glass jars provided to the respective sampling organizations.Samples should be stored at $<4^{o}$ C by refrigerating them or placing them on wet ice. Samples will be shipped within 48 hrs to NOAA; c/oYelena Sapozhnikova; 331 Fort Johnson Rd.; Charleston, SC 29412 (843-762-8880 phone; 843-762-8737 fax).

If any samples need to be transported to another organization for processing, they should be packed appropriately (blue ice or dry ice) and shipped to SCCWRP via overnight express, or a local carrier. Check with carrier for shipment restrictions.

Labeling of sample containers will be the responsibility of the field sampling crew. The following minimum information will be required on each sample label: 1) station number; 2) sampling date; and 3) parameter.

Samples that will be analyzed by the organization conducting the field collection will be returned to their laboratory by the field crew. Unless specifically instructed otherwise, samples to be analyzed by other laboratories will generally be transported to SCCWRP for later distribution. It is recommended that SCCWRP (Darrin Greenstein, 714/755-3224) be contacted prior to delivery of samples so that arrangements can be made to transfer custody. A **completed chain of custody form** must accompany all shipments of samples. Allow time for verification of the chain of custody. If samples are shipped by carrier, a copy of the chain of custody form is to be sent to SCCWRP for tracking purposes.

Sediment Toxicity Samples

Following the collection of sediment chemistry samples, grabs will be taken for sediment toxicity analysis. More than one grab may be necessary to meet the sample volume requirements of this sample type. If a second grab is necessary, the sediment from each grab will be distributed evenly among the individual sample containers. Sediments will not be homogenized in the field.

Sediment samples will be collected by scooping the top 2 cm of the undisturbed surface material from offshore stations or the top 5 cm from embayment/estuarine stations with a plastic scoop. Scoops will be separate from those used for sediment chemistry sampling. At the very minimum, the scoop will be washed with sample water and rinsed with de-ionized (DI) water between stations**.** Use of a new scoop with each sample is also acceptable. Sediment within 1 cm of the metal sides of the grab will be avoided to prevent sample contamination. High-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers will be used for collection of sediment toxicity samples. The toxicity laboratories performing the required analysis will provide sample containers. Labeling of sample containers will be the responsibility of the field sampling crews and the following minimum information will be required on each sample label: 1) station number; 2) sampling date; 3) parameter; and 4) split (if required).

Sample volume requirements for sediment toxicity samples are:

- 2.5 liters per species (5 liters total), distributed among five 1.0 L high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers with Teflon-lined lids is the sample volume goal. If insufficient sample volume is available after nine (9) grab attempts, a minimum of 1.5 liters per species (3.0 liters total) will satisfy the sampling requirement. Each labeled container should then be refrigerated, or placed on wet ice. **Do not freeze these samples.** Samples may be held in the field, or laboratory, on wet ice, or in a refrigerator at 4^{o} C, for no more than three days before transport to the designated toxicity laboratories. The inter-laboratory transport time will not exceed 24 hours. Upon arrival at the analytical laboratory, the samples will continue to be stored at 4^{o} C. Chain of custody procedures and holding times should be followed throughout the sampling and analysis procedures.

- Labeling of sample containers will be the responsibility of the field sampling crews with the following minimum information required on each sample label: 1) station number; 2) sampling date; 3) parameter; and 4) split (if required).

- Samples to be analyzed by the organization conducting the collection will be returned to their laboratory by the field crew. Samples to be analyzed by other laboratories will be transported to SCCWRP for later distribution. It is recommended that SCCWRP (Darrin Greenstein, 714-755-3202) be contacted prior to delivery of samples so that arrangements can be made to transfer custody. A **completed chain of custody form** must accompany all shipments of samples. Allow time for verification of the chain of custody. If samples are shipped by carrier, a copy of the chain of custody form is to be sent to SCCWRP for tracking purposes.

IX. TRAWL SAMPLING

A. Purpose

The purpose of trawl sampling is to obtain data on the distribution, abundance, biomass, diversity, and disease prevalence of demersal fish and invertebrate assemblages. It is also used to collect fish and invertebrates for tissue contaminant analysis. This information is useful in characterizing possible anthropogenic effects on demersal fish and invertebrate populations. Mearns and Allen (1978) provide a comprehensive description of how small otter trawls should be designed and used for conducting biological surveys in coastal waters.

B. Sampling Effort

A total of 384 trawl stations will be sampled during the survey. Information regarding trawl stations and the corresponding parameters that will be sampled by each organization at each of these sites are listed in Table 1 and Appendix A, respectively.

C. Otter Trawl Specifications

A semiballoon otter trawl (Figure 4) will be used to collect epibenthic invertebrates and demersal fish. Net dimensions are as follows: 7.6-m headrope (25 ft); 8.8-m footrope (29 ft); 3.8-cm (1.5 in) body mesh; and a 1.3-cm cod-end mesh (0.5 in). This net will have 22.9-m (75 ft) long bridles made of 1.0-1.6 cm (3/8 to 5/8 in) diameter rope (*e.g.,* Samson braid). Typical otter boards (doors) will have a width of 76 cm (30 in), height of 50 cm (20 in), and a suggested weight of 16 kg (35 lb) (Figure 5). Slight deviations (< 10%) from the dimensions are acceptable. The recommended door chains should be 5-mm (3/16 in) in diameter and should have the following numbers of links: front top -- 12; front bottom -- 11; back top -- 17; back bottom -- 16. The actual specifications of how any trawl door is set up may depend on the manufacturer of the otter trawl, but the user of the equipment should be sure to follow the factory recommended set-up procedures to ensure that the net fishes appropriately in the field.

The Bight'08 survey will require two additions to the trawl specifications: 1) Non-crushable floats are required for any nets used to trawl deeper than 200 m; and 2) Archival tags will be attached to one of the otter trawl boards to measure water temperature, depth and time of the individual trawls. Data collected by these tags will be downloaded to a computer using an archival tag reader so that data regarding time and depth of the trawls can be monitored in the field (trawls over 200m deep), or analyzed after the survey-related trawling has been completed. Some archival tags, such as Lotek, run continuously until full and the data must be read and saved before reinitializing or previously collected data will be overwritten.

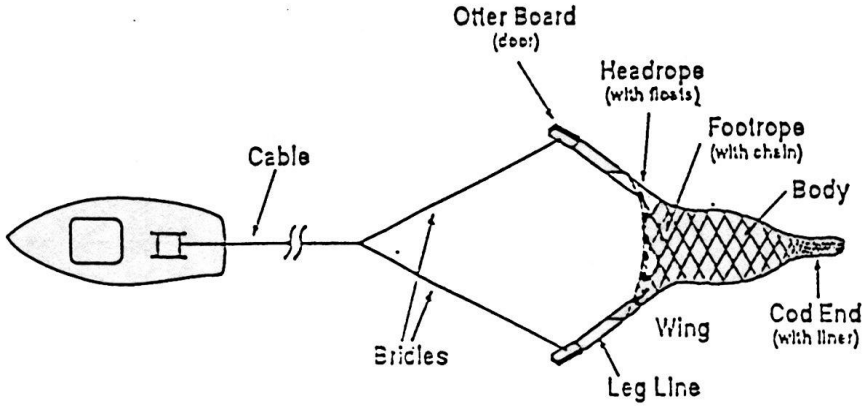

Figure 4. Semi-balloon otter trawl recommended for marine receiving-water monitoring programs in southern California (modified from Mearns and Allen, 1978).

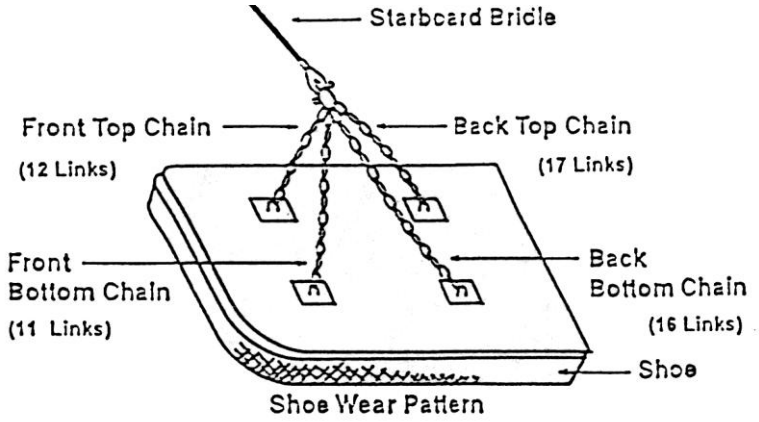

Figure 5. View of an otter board of a semiballoon otter trawl with recommended numbers of chain (5 mm or 3/16 inch. in diameter) links (modified from Mearns and Allen, 1978).

D. Trawl Data Flow and Responsibilities

Unlike benthic infauna and sediment chemistry, the collection of trawl data (identifications, measurements, etc.) is largely a field activity for which there is little opportunity to clarify or correct errors. Therefore, it is important that the field personnel appreciate the ultimate fate of the data records they are creating and assure that their field records support subsequent steps in the data creation process. For example, specimens collected as vouchers or as FID specimens must be labeled under the same name as recorded on the field data sheet. This allows these specimens to be unambiguously associated with the data records for purposes of data QC or revision.

In addition, each organization conducting trawling must complete all stages of sample analysis (lab Ids, voucher confirmation, data sheet revisions, etc.) prior to submitting data and voucher specimens to the project for further review. The flow of data from the trawl to final data set and the parties responsible for completion of each stage is summarized in Figure 2.

E. Trawl Data Log

If for any reason the Field Computer stops functioning, the field crew will be responsible for keeping a trawl data log (Appendix F). The information recorded in the log includes water depth, length of tow wire used, times and coordinates (latitude and longitude) for net on the bottom and the end of the trawl (beginning of trawl retrieval). Similar information for when the net was deployed (net over) and when the net was retrieved (net on deck) may also be recorded. Any anomalous conditions, such as rocky substrate, rocks in the catch, and/or a torn net should also be recorded in the log.

F. Net Preparation

The trawl components should be properly prepared prior to trawling so that the trawl can be deployed in an orderly and safe manner upon arrival at a station. Nets should be inspected for holes prior to deployment and repaired as needed. The net should be laid out and stacked on the stern of the vessel in the same configuration that it will be deployed: cod-end to the stern, floats up, and foot rope down. The trawl net should be checked to make sure that the cod-end is tied correctly, the doors should be connected properly to the leg lines, and the bridles should be securely fastened to the doors and to the tow wire.

G. Station Occupation

Every effort should be taken to ensure that any particular trawl track passes the station coordinates at a distance of no greater than 100 m, and that the trawl course varies no more than +/- 10% of the target depth (Figure 2). The trawl track can be plotted prior to sampling so that a successive series of waypoint locations along the track can be obtained. These coordinates can then be entered into the DGPS and then retrieved at the time of sampling to ensure that the vessel maintains its course along the trawl track.

H. Pre-Trawl Survey

Prior to trawling at a new station, it is important to conduct a pre-trawl survey of the trawl course. Trawl gear is likely to be lost if it becomes snagged on bottom obstructions and replacement of nets can be costly. The trawl course at a previously unsampled station should be evaluated by use of a fathometer. This pre-trawl survey can enable the navigator to avoid uncharted reefs and other obstacles. If obstacles are encountered, resurvey a new trawl course. The Cruise Leader alone has the authority to decide whether to trawl or abandon an unknown station. This survey should always be conducted at a new sampling site to determine whether the station is acceptable or if it should be abandoned. The pre-trawl survey should follow the expected trawl course along the isobath and the fathometer will be examined for evidence rocks and other obstacles.

If the first run indicates that a particular site is unacceptable, another survey will be conducted within 100 m or the original location and within +/-10% of the original depth. If this attempt is unsuccessful, a third attempt will be conducted at a different location using the same protocols (100 m of the original location, and +/-10% of original depth). The site will be abandoned after three unsuccessful attempts (Figure 2).

I. Trawling

Trawls will be towed along, rather than across, isobaths. While the vessel is underway the net and doors are placed in the water. It is important that the floats skim the surface and that the net is not entangled (*e.g.*, crossed leg lines, bunched or hooked portions of the net) prior to paying out the bridles. This small step could mean the difference between a successful or unsuccessful trawl. The bridles should be paid out by personnel on either side of the net, so as to avoid becoming entangled in the rigging during deployment.

Use of the proper scope (*i.e.*, length of hydrowire paid out versus the water depth) is important for successful trawls. After the net touches the bottom, a sufficient length of hydrowire (towing wire) should be paid out to ensure that the net is pulled from a horizontal rather than a vertical position. Insufficient scope will prevent the net from consistently fishing the bottom and will result in a no-catch, or a short-catch situation. In general, the required scope declines with increasing depth because the additional weight of the hydrowire enhances the horizontal component of the towing forces (Table 2).

Table 2. Recommended scope and length of wire for trawling at different depths in the Southern California Bight.

Water Depth (m)	Tow Wire Out (m)[1]	Approximate Scope (m)
<5	50	10.0:1
10	80	8.0:1
30	180	6.0:1
60	300	5.0:1
100	400	4.0:1
150	550	3.6:1
175	625	3.5:1
200	700	3.5:1
500	1,100	2.2:1

[1] Note that 25 m of bridle is included in this scope.

These scopes are for 1.0 cm (0.38 in) hydrowire. These scopes will have to be adjusted accordingly when using a different diameter of hydrowire.

Trawling is conducted at a speed-over-ground of 1.0 m/sec (or 1.5 to 2.0 kn). At stations less than 200 m water depth, the net is towed for 10 minutes, measured on deck from start of trawl to end of trawl (*i.e.*, lock down of winch to start of retrieval). Under normal circumstances, this distance over ground is equivalent to 450-600 m. Trawl speed and distance can be determined by DGPS. In confined areas (*e.g.* bays and harbors) the trawl duration may be reduced to 5 min, or a distance over ground of 225-300 m.

Trawls are conducted in a similar manner at stations exceeding depths of 200 m. Archival tags will be employed at these stations to verify on-bottom duration. While 10 minutes on the bottom is the nominal target time for each trawl, a working range of 8-15 minutes is acceptable. Upon completion of each trawl the archival tag information will be downloaded immediately to determine the on-bottom duration. If bottom time is less than 8 minutes, the trawl is repeated adjusting the deployment duration as necessary to fall as close to10 minutes as possible. If there are demersal fish and invertebrates in trawls falling under 8 minutes, the catch will be processed while the station is being re-trawled. A check box is provided on the data sheets to indicate that the data are from a trawl outside the on-bottom time limits.

In an effort to maximize the number of stations sampled at depths greater than 200 m during the B'08 index period it has been agreed that the archival tags will be a learning tool in the case of any trawl exceeding 15 minutes. Those trawls should be considered acceptable and processed normally. The archival tag information will be used to adjust subsequent deployment times at stations of similar depths so that the trawl will fall as close to the nominal on-bottom duration of 10 minutes as possible.

All archival tag information should be retained electronically and submitted with the other data types at the end of the project.

At the end of the prescribed trawl time, the net is retrieved and brought onboard the vessel. The cod-end is then opened and the catch deposited into a tub or holding tank. The catch is subsequently released to the scientific crew for processing.

J. Criteria for Accepting a Trawl

If the trawl is retrieved with little or no catch in the cod-end, its acceptability will be evaluated according to whether the trawl was conducted properly. The criteria used to evaluate the success of any trawl include making sure that proper depth, scope, speed, and distance (or duration) were maintained, whether the net was fouled (net tangled), and whether the catch shows evidence that it was on the bottom (*e.g.*, rocks, benthic invertebrates, benthic fish) (Figure 2). If any of trawl procedures were not followed, if the net was fouled or torn (the tear must be sufficient to allow escapement), or if there was no evidence of contact with the bottom (downloading the archival tag information can be useful), the trawl will be considered unacceptable and the site will be re-trawled. When evaluating the situation to decide whether to abandon or re-trawl a station, the Cruise Leader should keep in mind that the goal is to collect the best sample possible.

If a retrieved net has been torn sufficiently to allow escapement during the course of a trawl, the station will be abandoned. If the trawl hangs up on the bottom, the site can be resampled or abandoned at the discretion of the Cruise Leader. If re-trawling that station proves unsuccessful after another two attempts, the site will be abandoned (Figure 2).

K. Sample Processing

Sorting

The trawl catch will be sorted on deck into containers. The catch should initially be rough sorted into major categories (*e.g.*, urchins, shrimp, other invertebrates, flatfishes, rockfishes, other fishes). The categories used are not important, but it is more efficient to sort into rough categories before identifying organisms to species. Trawl debris should also be sorted into containers for processing.

Trawl Debris

Debris collected during any trawl should be quantified by recording the specific types of material and their quantities on the Trawl Debris Data Sheet (Appendix F). Trawl debris volumes are quantified using the following categories: present (1); low (2-10); moderate (11-100); and high (>100). The approximate weight of each type should also be estimated using these categories: trace (<0.1 kg); low (approx. 0.1-1.0 kg); moderate (approx. 1.1-10.0 kg); and high (>10.0 kg).

Identification

The goal is to provide species-level identifications for all fish and invertebrates captured in the

trawl. Most, if not all, of the trawl-caught organisms should be identifiable to species in the field using the recommended taxonomic keys and field guides. Species of fish and invertebrates that cannot be reliably identified to species in the field should be returned to the laboratory for further identification. In these instances, it is better that the field crew recognize their taxonomic limitations, record "FID" (further identification) on the field sheet and include descriptions of any attributes that may later aid in the identification of that specimen.

****Under no circumstances should an organism be discarded if the identity is in question.**

When the "FID" organisms have finally been identified, the correct identity of the species should be recorded on the original data sheet. If the laboratory identity differs from that recorded in the field, the original name should be crossed out with a single line only; do not erase the original name. If a specimen cannot be identified by the sampling organization, it will be sent to SCCWRP for further analysis.

Although all fish collected during Bight'08 will be identified to the lowest possible taxon (either in the field or in the laboratory), only certain trawl-caught invertebrates meeting very specific criteria will need to be identified to that level. There are likely to be many small infaunal and pelagic species that will be taken incidental to the trawl catch. These need not be processed or documented. Only epibenthic invertebrate organisms greater than 1 cm in any dimension will be included in the data. Colonial and pelagic organisms will be noted, but do not need to be enumerated. The presence of obvious fish parasites, such as leeches or cymothoid isopods, should be noted.

A recommended list of field guides and taxonomic aids for identifying fish and invertebrates will be distributed to all of the participating organizations prior to the survey. The most basic and comprehensive guides for fish are Miller and Lea (1972) and Eschmeyer et al. (1983). Allen (1977) provides information for identifying juvenile rockfishes (*Sebastes* spp.), while Orr et al. (2000) and Love et al. (2002) provide keys to larger rockfishes. Kramer et al. (1995) provides information for identifying flatfishes. Generally, there are no widely comprehensive guides to the epibenthic invertebrates.

Either common or scientific names of fish may be used in the field, however, in the case of invertebrates, only scientific names are permissible. Use standard common and scientific names of fishes and scientific names of invertebrates given in a list of trawl-caught species of fishes and invertebrates in southern California that have been distributed to organizations prior to the survey. For species not in these lists, use only standard common and scientific names of fishes given in Robins et al. (2004), or scientific names of fishes from Eschmeyer (1998), and common names of invertebrates from SCAMIT (2008).

For every species caught, each organization will provide at least one representative of that species to the Bight'08 voucher collection (see Voucher Collection)

Each organization should have a kit containing a variety of tools which will aid in field identification. The kit should include forceps (small with sharp points and large with blunt

points), a hand lens, dividers or calipers, dissecting needles, scalpels with scalpel blades, probes, and plastic rulers (marked in millimeters).

Length Measurement

All fish species will either be measured on measuring boards or, for very large specimens, by a meter stick or tape measure. A measuring board typically consists of either a flat or trough shaped board with a part of a meter stick running down the middle. A smaller board (cross board) is attached across the zero-end of the meter stick. Centimeter size-classes are marked along the side of the measuring board with the number of the size class marked next to the appropriate centimeter.

When measuring a fish, the head should be pushed against the cross board at the zero-end of the measuring board. Standard length in bony fishes is obtained by measuring from the anterior tip of the head to the posterior end of the caudal peduncle, located slightly anterior of the externally visible origin of the caudal fin rays. Bending the tail laterally upwards and noting the point of sharp flexure can most closely approximate where standard length is measured (Figure 6). Total length will be measured for all cartilaginous fishes. Wingspan will be measured in addition to total length for stingrays because the tips of their tails are frequently broken off (Figure 7).

The length of all fish specimens will be reported in size classes of 1 cm intervals (Mearns and Allen 1978). The first centimeter size class (size class number 1) extends from >0 to 1.0 cm; size class 2 extends from >1.0 to 2.0 cm, and so forth (Figure 8).

All species will be recorded on the Trawl Fish Species Data Sheet, or Trawl Invertebrate Species Data Sheet (Appendix F). For fish species with 10 or fewer individuals, each size class measurement will be recorded on the Trawl Fish Species Data Sheet, separated by commas. For species with more than 10 individuals, the species identifications and totals are listed on the data sheet, but the individual sizes are tallied on a separate Fish Size-Class Data Sheet (Appendix F).

An attempt should be made to size-class all fish. For the rare occasions when size classing is not possible (*e.g.*, a huge catch of a single species), a subsample of several hundred fish should be measured. When this occurs, the reason should be noted on the data sheet. (Note: Catches of greater than 2,300 individuals of a single species have been measured in past surveys). Lengths of invertebrate species will not be measured.

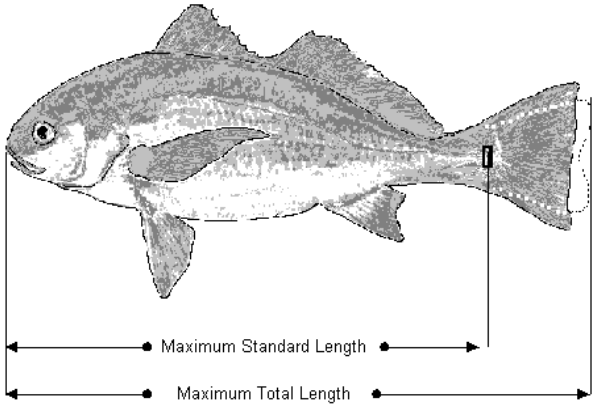

Figure 6. Endpoints for Standard Length (SL) and Total Length (TL) for bony fish.

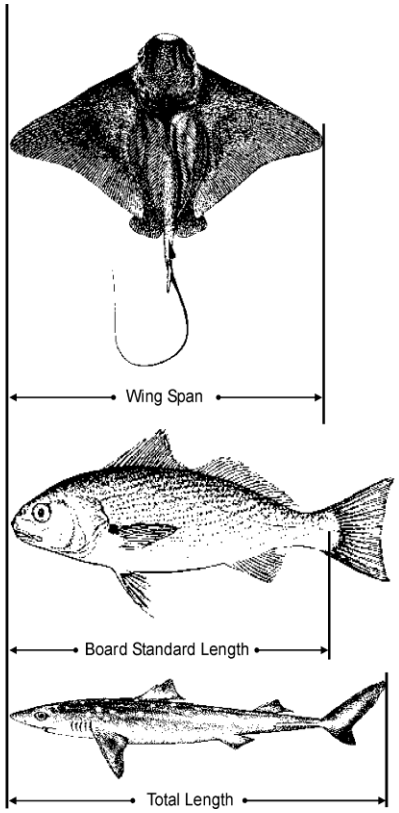

Figure 7. Endpoints for Wingspan (WS), Standard Length (SL), and Total Length for measuring the length of bony and cartilaginous fishes.

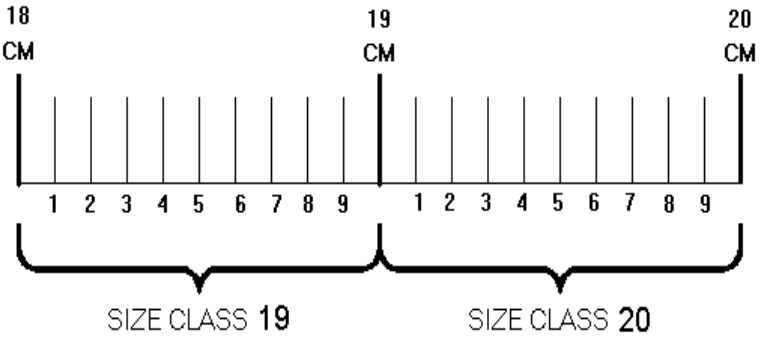

Figure 8. Relationship of centimeter size classes to millimeter values using centimeter and millimeter marks on a meter stick where size class 20 is defined as 19.1 to 20.0 mm.

Weighing

Weight data collected from fish and invertebrate species will be used to estimate the total biomass of the catch and for each species where practical. Each organization should have a range of spring scales that are capable of weighing to the nearest 0.1 kg. The scales should be calibrated at the start of each trawling day using a standard set of at least three weights. Weighing will be done using a pre-weighed tare bucket, or another suitable container (*e.g.*, plastic net bags). If a tare bucket is used, the bottom should have many holes drilled through it to allow any excess liquid to drain off before the weight is recorded. Tare buckets should be washed periodically to remove the accumulated slime.

The total biomass of each species will be measured with a spring scale. Species with a biomass greater than 0.1 kg will be recorded to the nearest 0.1 kg. The tare container weight will be subtracted from the gross weight (species plus tare container) to give the weight of the species (net weight). Tare and gross weight can be recorded on the data sheet but are not required. Small species weighing less than 0.1 kg will be recorded as <0.1 kg. These will be set aside and weighed together to provide a composite weight. Composite weights greater than 0.1 kg will be recorded to the nearest 0.1 kg. Composite weights of less than 0.1 kg will not be rounded; they are to be recorded as <0.1 kg. There will be one composite weight for fish and one composite weight for invertebrates. These weights will assist in calculating the total biomass of the catch.

Large organisms may be weighed individually. Individual weights of smaller specimens may also be collected using a range of scales capable of weighing to the nearest 0.1 g.

Enumeration

Fish are enumerated while measuring them. The total number of each species (including size-classed species) should be recorded on not only the Fish Species Data Sheet, but also the Fish Size-Class Data Sheets for species represented by more than 10 individuals.

Most invertebrates will be enumerated following identification. However, the number of individuals in particularly abundant species may be estimated from the total biomass of the species at a later time. First, the number of individuals that comprise a minimal weight can be used to provide a "number of individuals per kilogram" coefficient. The total biomass of a

species divided by the number of individuals per kilogram yields the total number of individuals in the sample. The aliquot of specimens that will be used to determine weight for a species should be sufficiently large (*e.g.*, several kilograms) so that it falls within the mid to upper range of the spring scale being used; this prevents the inherent inaccuracy of the spring scale at the low end from being multiplied throughout the entire biomass calculation.

Examination for Gross Pathology

During the identification and measurement procedures, fish and invertebrates will be examined for gross pathology. This entails a scan of an individual organism for anomalies and noting the type of pathology (by abbreviation) next to the length of organisms (for fish) during measurement on the appropriate data sheet. The following anomalies will be noted for fish:

1) fin erosion
2) tail erosion
3) tumors
4) external parasites (*e.g.*, copepods, isopods, leeches)
5) eye parasites (*i.e., Phrixocephalus)*
6) color anomalies (ambicoloration, albinism) (Mearns and Haaker 1973)
7) skeletal deformities (Valentine 1975)
8) lesions
9) other anomalies

An observation should be noted next to the individual length on the Fish Species Data Sheet and described in the comments section. However, when recording anomalies in the database, a separate record should be used for fish of the same species and size class with and without anomalies. For example, if five *Citharichthys sordidus* of size class 10 were collected at a given site and only one had an eye parasite, then two records would be needed. One record would record four *C. sordidus* of size class 10 with no anomalies, and the other would record one *C. sordidus* of size class 10 with an eye parasite (see Bight'08 Information Management Plan for more detailed information).

For invertebrates, burnspots, parasites, and other anomalies will be noted in the comment section of the Trawl Invertebrate Species Sheet (Appendix F).

Fin erosion can be found on the dorsal, anal, and caudal fins of flatfishes, and on the lower caudal fin and pelvic fins of bilaterally symmetrical fishes. Tail erosion occurs on the top and bottom of the caudal fin or along the entire posterior caudal fin of bilaterally symmetrical fishes. Tumors can be smooth and rounded (angioepithelial nodules) or furrowed (epidermal papillomas). Externally obvious copepod parasites occur on the eye, fins, or body of fish. Cymothoid isopods occur in the gill cavities of fish or on the body; they often fall off. Leeches occur on the body of some flatfishes. Skeletal deformities include crooked backs, snub noses, or bent fin rays. Lesions include sores that do not appear to be caused by net damage. Burnspot disease is found on crabs and some shrimps; its lesions resemble cigarette burns. Parasites of shrimp. When noting the incidence of a parasite while size classing a particular species, be sure

to note it as an individual occurrence and not one for the entire size class.

Representatives of fish and invertebrates exhibiting each new instance of disease or which have a different parasite should be returned to the laboratory and vouchered.

Processing Stage Monitoring

Accidental omissions can occasionally be made if a bucket of organisms is not processed. This can be avoided by attaching a colored rubber tag (made of a square with a slit in one side) to the handle of each bucket to indicate a particular stage of processing. For instance, different tags can represent that the bucket is ready for identification, measurement, weighing, preservation, or discarding. As the bucket progresses to the next stage, the current tag can be pulled off and a new tag can be added. This procedure is not necessary for small catches but may be helpful when catches are large. Tags with commonly caught species names can also be temporarily attached to buckets to facilitate sorting and processing.

Safe Handling of Organisms

Field personnel are likely to encounter a variety of organisms that are potentially harmful. California scorpionfish (*Scorpaena guttata*) have venomous fin spines that can cause severe pain. This species should be handled with leather gloves and/or pliers. Hot water, meat tenderizer or ammonia should be applied to any puncture wound inflicted by this fish; heat is useful in breaking down the protein in the venom.

Several species of rockfishes and the spotted ratfish (Hydrolagus colliei) also have mildly venomous spines which can cause a burning sensation. The round sting ray (Urobatis halleri), the California butterfly ray (Gymnura marmorata), and the bat ray (*Myliobatis californica*) all have venomous spines on their tails. The wound should be immersed in hot water to break down the protein in the venom.

The Pacific electric ray (*Torpedo californica*) can emit a very strong electric shock. If you must handle this species, wear rubber gloves and hold it by the tail. **Do not grasp the disk with both hands!**

Pacific angel sharks (*Squatina californica*), spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), spotted ratfish, Pacific electric rays, and California halibut (*Paralichthys californicus*) all have sharp teeth that can result in painful bites if they are not handled properly.

Care must also be taken in handling the blueleg mantis shrimp (*Hemisquilla ensigera*). This species is capable of severely cutting a person with its raptorial appendages. Care should also be taken in handling any of the large crabs and octopus.

Preservation of Specimens

Voucher specimens, incompletely identified fish and invertebrate specimens, and those with diseases that require further examination should be returned to the laboratory. Fish and

invertebrate specimens may be preserved or documented for QC or identification purposes in one of three ways:

1) fixing in buffered formalin-seawater;
2) freezing;
3) photographing.

However, all such specimens should be fixed in buffered formalin-seawater unless they are absolutely too large for preservation in this manner in the field.

The preferred method for preserving small specimens is to fix them in 10% buffered formalin-seawater. Specimens with fin erosion, tumors, or lesions will be fixed in this manner. Buffered formalin is made by mixing 50 g Na_2B4O_7 (sodium borate) per liter of formaldehyde or 5 g per liter of 10% formalin. The body cavities of fish greater than 60 mm in length should be slit with a scalpel on the right (for most bilaterally symmetrical fish), the blind side (for flatfish), or ventral side (for dorsoventrally flattened fish, such as rays) before the specimen is placed in formalin. The slit allows preservative to enter the body cavity and preserve the internal organs. **Note that by convention, bilaterally symmetrical fish are photographed or drawn with their heads facing left and dissections or gut cavity incisions are conducted only on the right side of the fish.**

Fish and invertebrates will be placed in plastic bags or plastic jars and fixed in 10% buffered formalin-seawater. Fish should be inserted tail-first into jars so that they can be removed easily without destroying the fin rays or spines.

Fish should remain in formalin for no more than a week before being transferred to a freshwater bath. It is recommended that fish specimens soak in the water for at least two days. The water should be changed at least once during that period. The fish should then be transferred to a solution of 50% isopropanol (isopropyl alcohol), or 70% ethanol for preservation.

Trawl-caught invertebrates will also be fixed in 10% buffered formalin-seawater and preserved in 70% ethanol.

Voucher specimens should not be submitted to SCCWRP until they have been transferred to alcohol.

Larger specimens can be placed in plastic bags and frozen on dry ice if excessively large quantities of formalin would be required to fix the specimen in the field. These can then be thawed and fixed in the laboratory with a 10% buffered formalin solution. If possible, large specimens with tumors, fin erosion, or lesions should be fixed in the field with formalin rather than frozen. **Do not freeze specimens that can otherwise be preserved in the field in formalin-seawater.**

Small invertebrates (*e.g.*, nudibranchs) may be kept cold in seawater and returned alive to the lab for identification.

Only large specimens of fish and invertebrates can be vouchered in the field by photographing them in color. If a photograph is used for a voucher of a species, it should show the overall appearance of the specimen, and any important identifying features. If characters necessary for the identification of a species cannot be seen in the photograph, the photograph will not be accepted as a voucher. Colorful fishes may also be photographed in addition to providing a preserved specimen to aid in identification of the voucher. Photographs of unidentified rockfishes, in particular, should be taken as soon as possible after capture because their color, which is an important taxonomic character, fades during preservation. Bilaterally symmetrical fish and dorsoventrally flattened fish (skates, rays) should be photographed facing left. Flatfish should be photographed with the eyed side up. The left-eyed species should be photographed facing to the left and the right-eyed species should face to the right (**Note:** The gill cover should cut the **lower** profile of the body). If an anomaly or important character occurs on the opposite side of the recommended profile for a particular type of fish, a photo should also be taken of the afflicted side. All specimens should be photographed on a light background with a meter stick along side and a label giving date, station number, and species in large bold letters. Notes should be made of character states that can aid in identification (*e.g.*, counts of fin rays, gill rakers, and scales).

Specimens preserved for further identification must be noted on the field data sheet. Note whether the organism is fixed, frozen, or photographed. A photograph log should be kept during the survey, documenting species name, the frame number, the date and the station location of each photograph.

L. Quality Assurance/Quality Control Procedures

In addition to the pre-survey QA/QC protocols, the following QC measures will check the accuracy of taxonomic identifications and counts made during the survey:

1) During the survey, taxonomic identifications will be checked during at least one visit to each vessel by Bight'08 designated taxonomists. They will observe species identification by each organization in the field and record the data on a Taxonomy QA/QC Data Sheet (Appendix H). Their duties include rechecking the identifications of at least 25% of the species collected during the day and noting any problems with the identification of pathologies. The Chief Scientist will be informed of any problems and the field personnel will be instructed regarding the appropriate identifications as needed. Each vessel will be expected to have appropriate taxonomic identification aids during the survey.

2) During the survey, QA/QC data will also be collected on variability in trawl data collection. On each survey day, the Cruise Leader (or delegate), will reprocess two randomly selected fish species (of at least 10 fish) that have already been counted, measured, and weighed. These species will be recounted, reweighed, and remeasured. A record of the counts, weights, and lengths of these quality control checks along with the original values will be maintained on a separate size

class data sheet Demersal Fish, Quality Control Form and a note will be made in the trawl comments on the original trawl data sheet that the recount was taken.

3) Voucher specimens of each species collected by each organization will be preserved and returned to SCCWRP during the survey (see Voucher Collection below). The identification of these specimens will be checked by a qualified taxonomist following the survey to further ensure that identifications were made correctly. Errors in species identifications must be corrected in the data. Anomalies will be verified by a qualified pathologist.

M. Voucher Collection

The Bight'08 voucher collection of trawl organisms will be developed during the course of the survey and will be housed at SCCWRP. This collection will document the species taken during the survey and what names were applied to each. It will also document the types of diseases or anomalies found in the gross pathology examinations. Voucher specimens should be preserved in an appropriate manner and clearly labeled as to identity, collection date, site name, site location, and depth. It is also recommended that each organization develop a voucher collection at their organization. The voucher collection will consist of preserved organisms and photographs of organisms.

Each organization will be provided with a list of trawl fish and invertebrate species. For every species caught, each organization will provide at least one representative of that species to the Bight'08 voucher collection. Thus for many species, the Bight'08 voucher collection will contain representatives from all organizations involved in data collection. As species are collected, they will be checked off the list. Each organization will give specimens to the Bight'08 voucher collection, before including them in their own collection.

Specimens requiring further identification should be identified by the collecting organization and data should be corrected as appropriate on the field data sheet. Do not submit such specimens to SCCWRP unless the specimens cannot be identified by taxonomists at that organization. Any particular specimen in an organization's voucher collection will represent organisms with the same name that have been collected during Bight'08. Thus it is very important that all specimens be correctly identified.

X. LABELING AND SHIPPING OF SAMPLES AND FIELD DATA SHEETS

A. Sample Labels/Tracking

Each sample will be identified and tracked by the station, parameter, date sampled, and split number if required. Individual log numbers may be used at the discretion of the sampling organization. Sample log numbers will be handled by SCCWRP for the samples shipped to SCCWRP that are not run by the organization that collected them in the field.

B. Labels

Labels will be printed by the organization responsible for field sampling prior to the survey and will include, at a minimum, the station number, parameter, date, and split (*i.e.*, 1 of 1, 2 of 3, etc.). Dates will be reported as day/month/year. External labels should be covered with clear postal tape to prevent them from falling off the container if they will not stick on some surfaces.

C. Field Data Sheets

If a field computer has not been used during any part of the Bight'08 sampling, then benthic data sheets and cruise logs will be retained by the sampling organization until sampling is completed. Trawl data sheets will be returned to the organization's laboratory and held there until all species identifications are complete. Data on species identified in the laboratory must be added to the data sheets and verified within the laboratory. Upon completion of laboratory identifications, original field data sheets will be sent to SCCWRP with copies retained by the sampling organization. Trawl fish and invertebrate data will be submitted electronically or on diskettes and as hardcopies to SCCWRP as soon as the data sheets are complete.

D. Shipping of Samples

All benthic infauna, sediment chemistry, and toxicity samples not analyzed by the field sampling organization's laboratory, or NOAA, will be shipped to SCCWRP within the prescribed holding time. All shipping of samples will be the responsibility of the field sampling organizations. See Appendix J for detailed SCCWRP shipping information and see Section J and/or Appendix G for details on shipping samples to NOAA. Check on regulations for shipping hazardous materials.

Voucher collections will be shipped to SCCWRP at some point after an organization has completed trawling and the specimens have been properly preserved.

E. Chain of Custody Forms

Chain of custody forms (Appendix F) are to be filled out at the end of each sampling day detailing the transfer of samples from the vessel crew to the laboratory, or to delivery personnel. A form is to be filled out for each set of samples that will be transferred to a specific location. The sample and container type is to be included on the form to identify the samples being

transferred. This form is to be signed by the crew member transferring the samples and the laboratory staff member receiving them. A copy of the form is to be kept and the original form with signatures will accompany the samples. If samples are shipped by carrier, a copy of the chain of custody form is to be sent to SCCWRP for tracking purposes.

XI. CONTINGENCY PLANS

A. Purpose

Any field program can be affected by factors outside the control of the sampling crews. Weather, equipment failure, errors in designating station locations, and accidents can all prevent the field crews from obtaining samples at one or more stations. Contingency plans made in advance of the survey can greatly facilitate decision-making in the field. It is the responsibility of the Cruise Leader to make most of these decisions in the field, based on the protocol described below. If there is any question regarding which protocol to follow, the Field Coordinator should be notified immediately.

B. Adverse Weather Conditions

In the event that the weather conditions deteriorate during any sampling day, it is ultimately the responsibility of the Boat Captain to determine if the conditions are sufficiently bad to prevent further sampling. The Cruise Leader in consultation with the Boat Captain should evaluate all alternatives, such as changing the sampling plan to more protected areas or returning to the prescribed schedule when the weather improves. Every attempt should be made to avoid wasting the entire day. However, **the safety of the crew is priority number one.**

C. Station Inaccessibility

Stations can be inaccessible because 1) they were incorrectly positioned on land, 2) they were located in water too shallow for the boat, or 3) they cannot be sampled for unforeseen circumstances. If it cannot be sampled, the sampling site will be moved to a location within 100 m horizontal distance from the original site, staying within +/-10% of the depth of the original site. If it still cannot be sampled, the station will be abandoned. No station should be sampled in less than 5 m (3 m for bays and harbors) or more than 1000 m. Estuary samples should only be collected within subtidal portions less than 2 m in depth.

D. Lost Gear

Lost gear can potentially have a significant effect on the sampling program. Equipment can be expensive and replacements may not be obtained in a timely manner. Crews should take every precaution against the loss of gear by properly tightening shackles and other connectors.

If important gear is lost, notify the Boat Captain immediately, so he can record the position using the vessel's navigation system. If possible, deploy a buoy at that exact location so relocation is made easier. Attempt to recover the equipment for a reasonable amount of time. If unsuccessful, use spare equipment (when available) or continue sampling without that particular equipment. Notify the Field Coordinator as soon as possible when equipment is lost.

XII. WASTE DISPOSAL

Proper disposal of all waste is an important component of field activities. At no time will any waste be disposed of improperly. The proper methods of waste disposal are outlined below:

A. Routine Garbage

Regular garbage (paper towels, paper cups, etc.) is placed in trash containers on board the boats. It can then be disposed on land in public receptacles or recycled.

B. Detergent Washes

Biodegradable detergents are not to be used for routine cleaning of any sampling equipment during Bight'08.

C. Chemicals

Acetone, formalin and other hazardous materials should be disposed of by following all appropriate hazardous materials regulations. They should never be disposed at sea.

D. Fish Waste

After each trawl catch has been processed completely, the remaining catch should be disposed of at sea. Use discretion when discarding the catch. For sampling conducted nearshore or in bays and harbors, return only live fish and invertebrates to the area where trawling occurred. All of the remaining fish should be disposed of offshore. Under no circumstances should fish be given to the public.

XIII. BIGHT'08 PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

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XIV. LITERATURE CITED

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APPENDICES

Appendix A:
Bight'08 Station Location Maps

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixA.pdf

Appendix B:
Bight'08 Field Sampling Organization and Station Draw Information

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixB.pdf

Appendix C:
Bight'08 Sampling Processing Analytical Laboratories

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixC.pdf

Appendix D:
Bight'08 Field Sampling Equipment and Supply Lists

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixD.pdf

Appendix E:
Bight'08 Field Sampling Vessel Specifications

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixE.pdf

Appendix F:
Bight'08 Field Sampling Data Sheets

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixF.pdf

Appendix G:
Bight'08 Sediment Chemistry Sampling Guide

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixG.pdf

Appendix H:
Bight'08 Field Sampling QA/QC Data Sheets

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixH.pdf

Appendix I:
Bight'08 Field Sampling Organization Contacts

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixI.pdf

Appendix J:
Bight'08 Field Sample Shipping Information

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/BightPlanningDocuments/Bight08/Bight08_FieldManual_AppendixJ.pdf