

S. A. D. C. T.

Sportfish Angler Data Collection Team

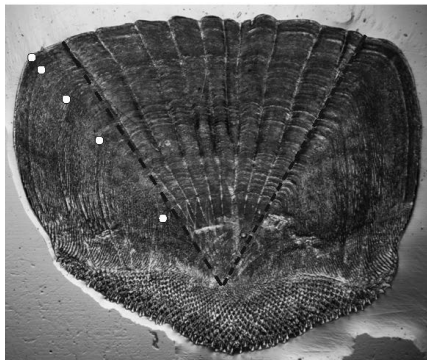


The Sportfish Angler Data Collection Team (SADCT) is a group of volunteer anglers collecting biological samples of selected recreational fish species in Massachusetts marine waters.



The Sportfish Angler Data Collection Team (SADCT) collect biological samples of fish in state waters. SADCT data is used by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to support protections for certain species. The program lets interested and dedicated anglers study the marine species they enjoy. All participants receive program welcome packages and towels along with an annual study report with an individualized summary on the fish they sampled.

Anglers joining SADCT follow simple protocols for gathering data. Participants measure fish length, collect scale samples from each fish caught, and note whether it is kept or released. Scales are used to determine the age of the fish by counting growth rings, much like the aging technique for trees.



This is a scale from a 5-year-old black sea bass, white dots showing the annulus for each year, including the edge because this fish was captured in the spring.

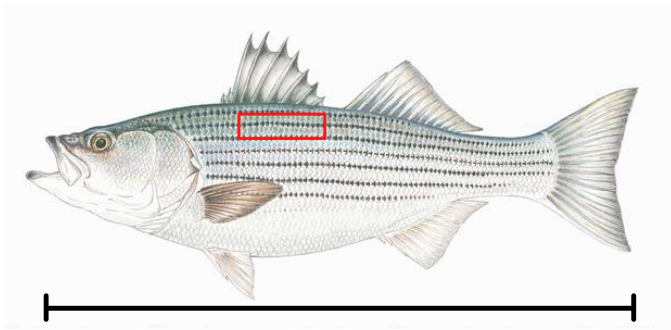


Sampling scales from a striped bass. Fish are covered lightly with a wet towel to calm them and prevent unnecessary movement.

Having a measuring board or other safe surface to rest the fish on for scale sampling is helpful. It additionally supports the safe release and survival of the fish.

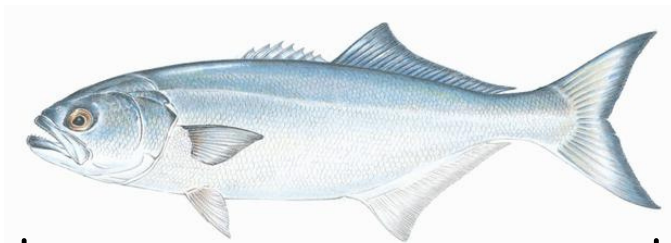
Age determination along with length data collected by SADCT anglers can be used in stock assessment models. Information from these models can help determine which age classes are experiencing the highest fishing mortality, track growth of the overall stock, and facilitate proper management of that species in the state of Massachusetts.

Below are examples of how to measure each catch, as well as where to remove scales on each species



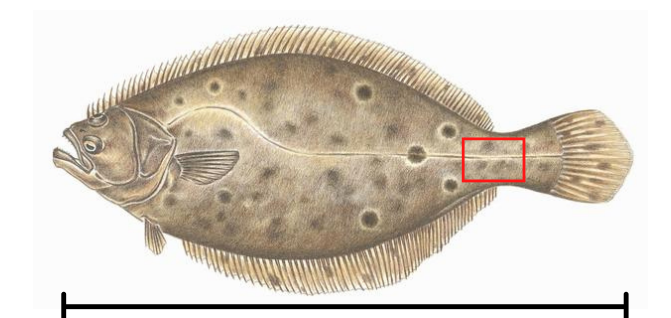
Striped Bass

total length, scales collected from dorsal region of the animal



Bluefish

total length, NO SCALE COLLECTION

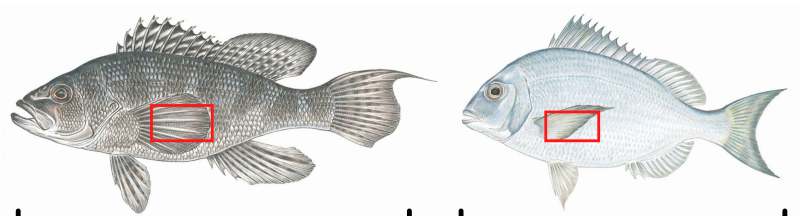


Fluke (summer flounder)

total length, scales collected from top side of where the tail meets the body (caudal peduncle)



Full video instruction on scale collection available on our YouTube MA Marine Fisheries



Black sea bass

total length, scales collected from under the pec fin

Scup

total length, scales collected from under the pec fin

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
(978) 282-0308

Collector name: Jane Doe Date: 6-12-20

Species: Striped Bass Length: 29"

Location: Boston Harbor Shore / Boat

Kept _____ Released X

SADCT collection envelope



To find out more about SADCT and to sign up, contact:
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