

Fin Clip DNA protocol for Salmon and Trout in Island Streams

This is a partnership between Vashon Nature Center and Cedar Coast Field Station in BC Canada to add to the genetic library of Salish Sea Salmon populations (catchcliprelease.org)

Equipment is in Reach walker fanny pack kits:

- hand operated single-hole hole-punches
- pencils
- rubber gloves
- pre-cut 3MM cellulose whatman paper (or equivalent) ~2x3"
- water resistant scale envelopes or manilla coin envelopes

Protocol:

- we aim to collect ~200 samples per species. These samples can be collected over multiple years
- use single hole punches (office supply) to remove an approx. 3mm piece of tissue from any fin, we aim for a small crescent shaped piece as we don't require a piece the full diameter of the punch. You may also use your own knife to trim a piece of fin if you prefer.
- the sample is then removed and placed on a small piece of whatman paper and then placed into a coin envelope (we use rite in the rain <https://www.riteintherain.com/field-sample-envelopes-lg-blank-bulk> but regular manilla envelopes work if they are kept dry). we pre-cut whatman paper and stuff envelopes prior to sampling.
- record species, date of collection, River name (try and not use aliases), sampler name and fisheries area code. Notes on length and weight, coloration, sex or anything else of interest can be recorded but is not required.
- after sampling, if the envelopes are soaking wet then they can be spread out and dried in a warm and dry place. Dry envelopes can then be stored at room temperature, no other preservation methods required.
- After sample has dried send to Bianca or Kelly (email and they can pick up)
- Do not assign a sample number. Kelly or Bianca will do that after all samples are collected for the season. VNC has a google sheet that we update with collected samples. After sampling is completed we update the database and assign each fin clip envelope a unique identifier. VNC's unique identifier will be "18RECVNC" followed by the sample number 18RECVNC-001 , 18RECVNC-002 etc.
- At the end of the season when the salmon are all done for the year we will then have the samples sent up to BC and off DFO Canada for processing.

*Please be sure to cut open the belly of the dead fish to ensure we are not collecting double samples.

