

Tips and Tricks for Collecting a Net Tow

Horizontal Net Tow Collection

- Always rinse the net and cod end with the water you are about to sample
- Swing the net back and forth prior to tossing it into the water in order to gain momentum
 - The momentum will help to remove air bubbles from the net when it is in the water
 - Pull the net along the surface of the water and remove all air bubbles
 - Air bubbles left in the net can move into the cod end during sampling if they are not all removed
 - Slightly jerking the rope of the net while moving the net along the surface of the water can help to remove bubbles
 - Light weights (~2-3 oz) can be used on the cod end or the cod end can be filled with the sample water
- Alternate method for removing air from the net and cod end
 - Gently lower the net into the water allowing the wire hoop to submerge approximately 0.5 to 1m
 - Raise the net and cod end completely out of the water gently, but quickly enough to allow the water that has been captured in the net to collect in the cod end before it siphons out through the sides of the net
 - This will remove all of the air from the cod end leaving it full of water
 - Slowly dip the cod end and net back into the water vertically allowing water to fill the net
 - Once the net has completely submerged with the hoop just below the surface, it can be pulled across the water for the desired distance
- Be careful to avoid pilings, fishing hooks, etc., in order to keep the net from getting damaged
- Use natural markers (posts, cleats, etc..) or physically mark a start and end point for the net tow to be performed
 - Establish a distance and repetition amount for the net tow to be performed each and every time (i.e. 3 x 5m)

Vertical Net Tow Collection

- Use tape, such as electrical tape, to mark distances along the rope measured from the opening of the net
 - The markings can be used to gauge the depth of the vertical tow performed
 - Establish a depth and repetition amount for the net tow to be performed each time (i.e. 3 x 5m)
- Always rinse the net and cod end with the water you are about to sample
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 - Pull the net along the surface of the water and remove all air bubbles

- Air bubbles left in the net can move into the cod end during sampling if they are not all removed
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