

## Non-lethal fish sampling for *Flavobacterium psychrophilum* PCR

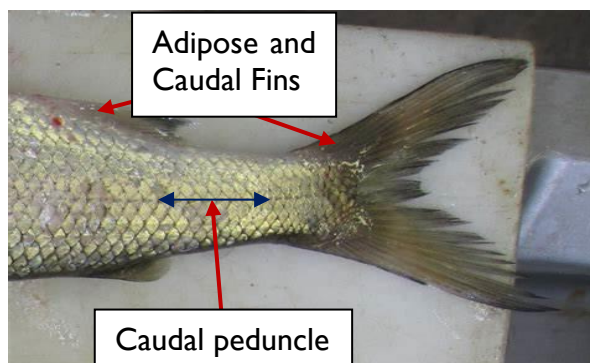
Use the information in this LabFact to ensure the integrity of samples being sent to the laboratory for *Flavobacterium psychrophilum* molecular biology testing by PCR.

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Clean cotton swabs
- Ice bricks and esky
- 9ml tubes containing ~ 3ml of *Flavobacterium psychrophilum* (Fpsy) growth medium\*

\* ACCM medium can be supplied if *Flavobacterium branchiophilum* or *Flavobacterium columnare* are suspected.

Medium and swabs supplied by the Animal Health Laboratory, with at least 1 weeks' notice. On receipt, keep the medium refrigerated between 2-8°C for up to 2 weeks or frozen at approximately -20°C for longer storage.



### SAMPLING PROCEDURE

- Slowly thaw out medium if stored frozen.
- For surveillance of subclinical carrier fish collect the mucus from a fish's skin with a swab. Carriage can be more prevalent around the caudal and adipose area.
- For targeted testing of affected fish collect from the very edge of any visible lesion
- Place the swab in the growth medium.

### TRANSPORTING SAMPLES

Place samples in an esky containing frozen ice bricks straight after sample collection. *Flavobacterium psychrophilum* is heat sensitive and it is important that the medium does not warm above 15°C at any time after sampling.

Complete the laboratory advice note, including lease ID, and list all tanks sampled. Copies of an advice note and multiple fish ID sheet are available from

[www.nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health-laboratories/laboratory-forms](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health-laboratories/laboratory-forms)

Seal the documentation in an envelope and attach to the outside of the shipping box.

If you have any questions, please contact the laboratory on 03 6777 2111 and ask for the duty pathologist.

### SUBMITTING SAMPLES

Submit samples promptly to:

Animal Health Laboratory  
NRE Tas  
165 Westbury Road  
Prospect TAS 7250

P: 03 6777 2111

E: [specimenreception@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:specimenreception@nre.tas.gov.au)