

Oyster sampling for mortality investigation and OsHVI (POMS) PCR

Use the information in this LabFact to ensure the integrity of the samples being sent to the laboratory for oyster mortality investigation or surveillance testing for POMS (OsHVI). In the case of oyster mortalities, please contact a veterinary officer or inspector from Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Biosecurity Tasmania, on 03 6165 3263 prior to submitting samples to the laboratory.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 1.5ml-5 tubes with or without seawater for hatchery larvae/ spat < 5mm
- Heavy duty plastic bags or other suitable container for oysters > 5mm
- Ice bricks and esky

NUMBER AND TYPE OF ANIMALS TO BE TESTED

For hatcheries, prior to sampling, please confirm with Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Branch the number of samples required, (e.g. 30 random samples/aliquots).

In the case of oyster mortalities on lease sites please refer to the specific sampling numbers recommended by ABWB staff for your lease site.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

- Place 200mg of spat/larvae into each tube; seawater can be added to the tube. Label each tube with a sequential number e.g. 1 to 30. Use the laboratory advice note or fish ID sheet to write tank details for each tube, if required.
- Select live (not dead) juvenile and adult oysters, >5mm, from baskets with mortalities. Collect samples from each affected group on the lease. Place the

samples into plastic bags or other suitable container with the rack or site ID and advice note serial number recorded on the outside.

- **Please note:** A serial number is not available from the laboratory advice notes on our website.

TRANSPORTING SAMPLES

For larvae or spat, place the tubes in suitably sized plastic bags. Put these bags on an ice brick or ice in an esky.

For oysters > 5mm from lease sites place bags/containers on ice bricks or ice in an esky.

Complete the laboratory advice note, including lease ID, and list all racks/tanks sampled. Copies of an advice note and multiple fish ID sheet are available from www.nre.tas.gov.au/ahlabsforms.

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 6777 2111 and ask for the duty pathologist.

SUBMITTING SAMPLES

For oyster mortalities - contact a Veterinary Officer or Inspector, **prior** to submitting, on 03 6165 3777

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