

## Fish Tissue Collection Protocol (DWR Northern District)

DWR Northern District is collecting fish tissue samples for analysis of the edible (flesh) portions for mercury bioaccumulation. Desired samples (Fish) consist of one to three size classes of three to five fish for each size class. For Butte Creek samples, target species are Catfish (Channel or White), and Centrarchids (Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Crappie). An example follows:

4 Largemouth Bass Forklengths (FL) from 205mm to 270mm

3 Largemouth Bass FL from 332mm to 385mm

5 Channel Catfish FL 305mm to 400mm

3 White Catfish FL 451mm to 520 mm

- 1) Collect the fish and euthanize them (Club them in the head). Do not pith with metal implements as this may contaminate the sample with metallic residues.
- 2) Weigh and measure the forklength of the fish in millimeters. Record this data along with the sample date and time in the field notebook provided. See sample on first page of notebook.
- 3) From each individual Bass or crappie, collect about 6-8 scales with the forceps provided from just behind the pectoral fins and place them in a properly filled out coin envelope. Do not wet and seal envelope. Place envelope in small plastic bag provided.
- 4) From each individual Catfish, rotate the pectoral spine counterclockwise and remove the entire spine including the knob-like base of the spine and place in a properly filled out coin envelope.
- 5) Wrap each fish in aluminum foil **Dull Side to the fish**, and write the sample number and date on the outside on the foil with the provided permanent marker.
- 6) Place the wrapped fish into a large Plastic bag then into a cooler (on ice if possible, dry ice is best). When you get back to the office, place the fish into the freezer.
- 7) **Call Scott McReynolds at (530) 529-7304** (or Tracy at home) so that I can pick up the fish to ship out to the lab for analysis. I would like to be notified within a couple of days of collection so that I can get them to the lab within 7 days of collection.

**Butte Creek samples should be labeled starting with SBP-100, SBP-101, SBP-102,....  
Etc.**

**If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at my office at the above number or you can call me at home evenings.**

Thank you in advance for your help with this collection.