

Instructions for Using Survey Data Collection Sheets

These instructions are meant to provide assistance in using the new survey data collection sheets. There are 4 basic sheets, one for netting activities, one for gill netting, one for lake electrofishing and one for stream electrofishing. The correct sheet should be used for the correct activity. All information is **required** unless otherwise stated. A separate sheet should be used for each net or electrofishing run or the data collected under separate columns on the same sheet provided the summary information can be keyed to the correct data. The information collected in these fields is vital in assessing how the data can be used for comparisons and whether the data should be incorporated into the statewide database. If the fields are not correctly entered, then the data has limited usefulness.

The top two lines of each form ask for the same information. The following describes the information that should be entered in these blanks for all surveys.

Lake/Stream: This is the correct lake/stream name as specified in the Wisconsin Lakes/Streams manual. This is required for all surveys. Do not enter local names.

MWBCode: This is the correct seven digit master water body code as found in the master water body index. If no code is available or you are unsure of the correct code, please contact the data coordinator for the correct code.

Date: This is the day the data were collected. This is not the day when the gear was deployed or when the sheets were summarized.

County: This is the two digit numeric code for the correct county in which the lake is located. If you need a correct copy of the county codes, please contact the data coordinator.

Collector: This is the person responsible for data collection. It does not necessarily have to be the data recorder, but should be the individual responsible for correct data collection procedures. This person should be a member of the survey crew.

Target Fish: This is the target species for which the gear was deployed and CPE is calculated. For example, fyke nets set in the spring for collection of spawning walleyes or electrofishing in the fall for young-of-the-year walleye. It is possible to target more than one species during sampling. For example, electrofishing for both bass and bluegills.

Survey Type: This is the survey type used to collect the data. For example, either a comprehensive survey or an evaluation of walleye 15 inch size limit. Again more than one survey type might be possible for this blank.

Mark Given: This is the two digit fin clip code found in the Fish Management Handbook. This code should be used when a mark is given to a fish. If more than one mark is given, then the correct code should be given for all mark types.

H₂O Temp: This is the surface water temperature taken at the start of each sampling day. This temperature is an offshore temperature taken at least 100 yards from the shore. In a stream this temperature should be taken at least 5 feet from the bank. The temperature should be recorded to the nearest degree Fahrenheit.

Time: This is the time when the water temperature is taken. This should be recorded using the 24 hour clock.

Netting Data Collection Sheet

Adverse Conditions: This line should only be filled in when weather conditions have significantly impacted sampling ability. For example, strong winds, algae blooms, net collapse, holes in net, etc. A standard type of coding will be developed for the most common types of inclement conditions. If no adverse conditions are encountered, then this line should be blank.

Station: This line is used to fill in stations at which nets are set or seining occurs. This line can also indicate the net number. Stations should be denoted on a lake map such that later efforts can duplicate earlier sampling techniques.

Net Type: This form has been designed to collect data from a variety of different net types. Please write in the correct net type used to collect the information.

Length/Frame: The length of the seine used is required. This length should be expressed to the nearest foot. If fyke or trap nets were used, then the frame size should be specified to the nearest foot. This should be the height of the largest hoop.

Bar Mesh: Write in all bar mesh sizes that are applicable. Express mesh size to the nearest 0.25 inch. Do not report stretch measurements. If the net has different mesh size panels, then report the length of each panel under this length category.

Color: This is the color of the net material. For example, nets can be white, tarred, black, etc. A standardized code will be developed and placed in the Fish Management Handbook for this information.

Mesh Type: This is the type of material used to construct the mesh. Write in the material that the net is constructed from. If the net is constructed of more than one material then write in all that apply.

Net Nights: Fyke net effort is expressed as the number of net nights. Fyke net nights is defined as one net set for one night. A net set for two nights before being checked will have effort expressed as 2 net nights. Seine effort will be expressed as the distance seined to the nearest foot.

Species: Species for total count.

Count: Total number counted in a net.