

8.4 PROTOCOL FOR SAMPLING FISH WITH BEACH SEINES

Overview

A seine is a panel of netting pulled by bridles at each end. For many smaller seines, the bridle is attached to pulling poles or 'brails'. The upper line of the seine is equipped with floats and the lower with weights. Beach seines are effective only over shorelines and river bottoms that are free of obstacles such as logs, stumps, or large boulders.

Sources

British Columbia MWLAP (2003)

At a glance

1 For **small seines where wading is employed**, one person holds a brail securely against the bottom in ankle deep water while the second person wades directly out with the other brail. The first person remains stationary while the second pulls the seine to full extension and sweeps around pulling the net back in toward shore (all the while ensuring that the weighted line remains against the bottom). Both people then pull the net up on shore where the fish are collected and processed.

2 For large seines where the beach seine is deployed from a boat, attach a length of rope to each bridle (the length will be the distance off shore from which the seine net will be pulled).

3 Tie an anchor to one of the ropes and brace the anchor on shore. Load the net into the bow of the boat.

4 The operator of the boat then reverses slowly directly away from shore while the person in the bow feeds the rope out. Once the end of the rope is reached, the boat operator turns 90° and proceeds (in reverse) parallel to the beach while the person in the bow of the boat feeds out the net.

5 Once the end of the net is reached, the boat operator turns back towards shore while the person in the bow feeds out the rope. The net is retrieved by pulling from both ends at the same rate (this ensures that the net is not pulled in at an oblique angle).

*retrieving
the net*

6 When the net is about 10 m from the beach, the two people then approach one another as they continue to haul it up on the beach where the fish are collected and processed.

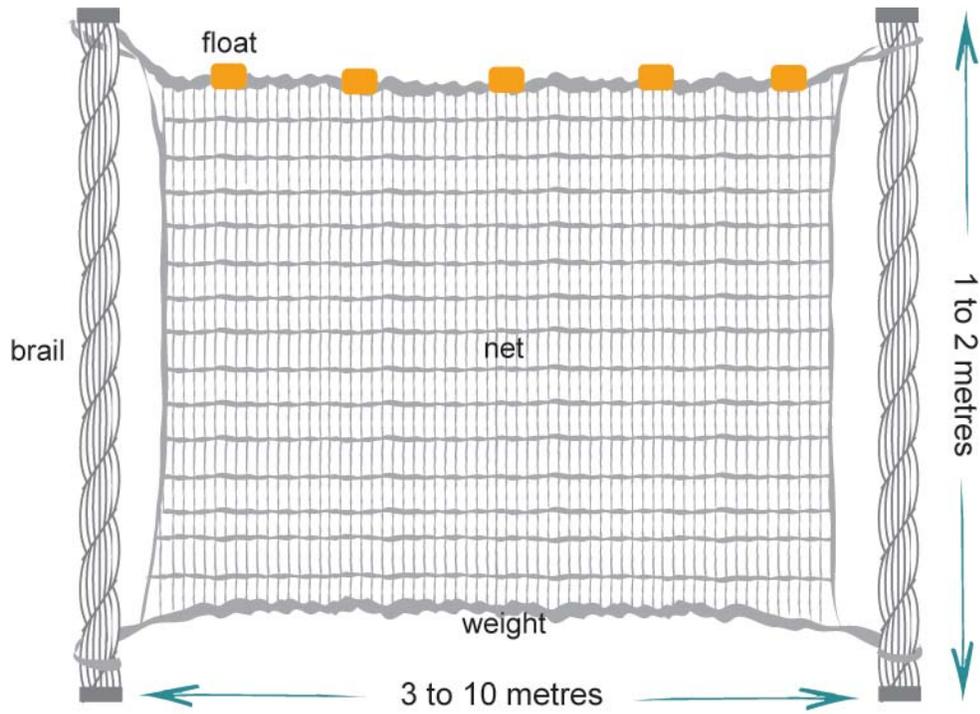


Figure 12. Seine net (British Columbia MWLAP (2003)).