



Fyke net and equipment

Nekton Monitoring

Fyke net

Objectives:

- Understand how a fyke net works and how to set it up to maximise efficiency
- Prepare for a nekton sampling session including using the right equipment



Components of a fyke net



Stake Wings Mouth Tunnel Wings Stake

Components of a fyke net

Mouth to the tunnel:

Capture area for nekton which are directed through to the tunnel.



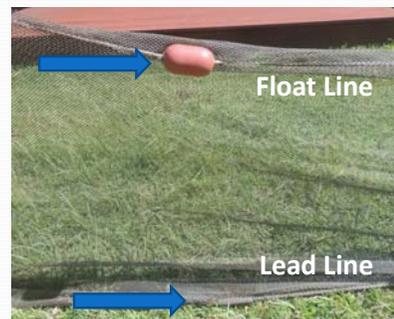
Fyke net tunnel

The tunnel part of the net holds the fish. It is important that the end of the tunnel remains in water even after the tide has gone out. Make sure the end of the tunnel is secured (tied).



Fyke net wings

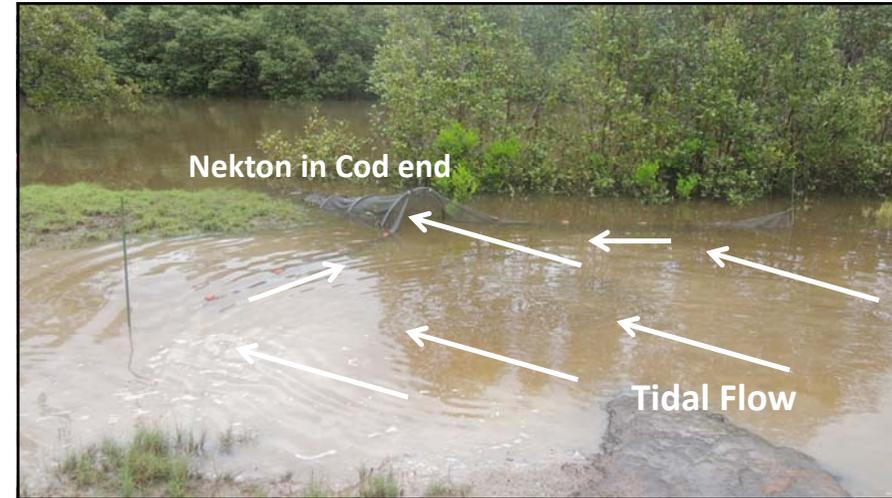
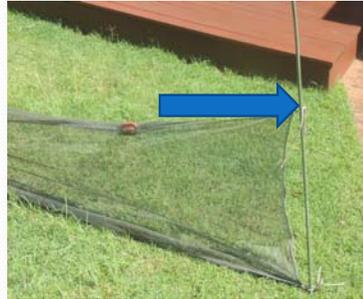
The wings direct the fish towards the fyke net mouth and tunnel net. The top of the net has a float line and the bottom of the net has a lead line. It is important to make sure the lead line has no gaps for nekton to escape through.



It is important to secure the lead line to the substrate

Fyke net stakes

Sampling in spring tides can lead to quite strong currents when the tide ebbs. It is important to secure the wings of the fyke net to the stakes and make sure the lead line is well set in the sediment. You may need to use tent pegs to achieve this.



Equipment

In order to carry out a nekton sampling session in a safe and accurate manner you will need the following equipment.



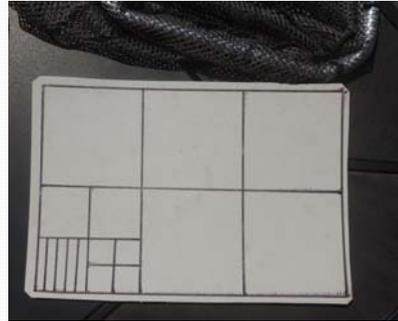
Containers and dip nets

It is worthwhile having two large containers for emptying the nekton into so specimens remain in water before they are identified, measured and released. The dip nets are useful for getting the fish out of the container.



Measuring Chart

Fish and crustaceans can be quickly laid onto a plastic chart so you can record the length of the specimen. Note the range of sizes on the chart. This chart was made using a cutting board and a permanent marker.



Handy items

Other pieces of useful equipment include a bucket and a large dip net (for larger specimens such as a mud crab), zip ties, sunscreen and insect repellent. Gloves are also handy for handling any spikey specimens of fish.



Recording data sheets

Finally you will need a folder to hold the recording sheets and always have a couple of pencils and spare recording sheets (in case of accidents). It can also be good to have an all weather camera – just in case you come across a specimen you don't recognise!



Fish Identification Guide

On this website we have developed a fish identification guide. You can download a copy and print it out as a useful guide for working in the field.

