

Introduction to the use of Fyke nets

How to set up a fyke net for a sampling program in
saltmarsh and mangrove habitat

Learning objectives

- Understand the importance of sampling saltmarsh and mangrove habitat for fish and crustaceans
- Understand how a fyke net works and how to set the net so that it works efficiently
- How to handle sampling material, measure and identify fish in a safe manner
- How to process and record the data



Fish Sampling Design

Mangroves and to a lesser degree saltmarsh provide habitat for fauna including fish and crustaceans

Mangroves have also been shown to be important nursery sites for juvenile fish and crustaceans

To continue to test the value of this habitat for fish, it is important to gather data on the number and type of fish which utilise these habitats



Constraints on fish sampling

Mangrove and saltmarsh habitat is difficult to sample as the vegetative structure restricts the efficient use of various nets used in other estuarine habitats (such as mudflats and seagrass beds).

Saltmarsh requires high spring and king tides before they are inundated and available for utilisation by fish



Constraints on fish sampling



The use of strategically placed fyke nets can provide valuable information on the numbers and species of fish entering these habitats at high tides.

What is a fyke net?

A fyke net is a fish trap consisting of a net suspended over a series of hoops, laid horizontally in the water. The net has side wings attached which direct nekton into the back of the tunnel. The side wings have a line of floats on the top and a set of sinkers on the bottom to create a secure curtain. With the run out tide the wings direct the nekton into the tunnel where they can be captured, identified, measured and released with minimal mortality rates.