User's Guide

for the

TIP

Trip Interview Program

Version 5.0

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Trip Interview Program
Data Collection and Reporting Form Procedures
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Introduction

NOAA Fisheries has the responsibility for the stewardship of the Nation's living marine resources. To achieve this mission, it is vital that our fisheries managers are provided with the best possible information. The information consists of many different parts. Catch, effort, biological, ecological, sociological, and economic data are all important.

The Trip Interview Program (TIP) was developed by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) in the 1980s as part of the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program. The primary focus of this shore-based sampling program is the collection of detailed commercial fishery information on the level of individual trips. The TIP mandate is to obtain representative samples from federally managed species for which age information (Biosampling) is needed for stock assessments. Biological samples include morphometric, age, reproductive, and genetic data. In addition to collecting biological data, the TIP serves as a quality assurance on catch and effort data. It validates the species composition of the landings as well as the type and quantity of gear through first hand, trained observation. Other important information, obtained through personal interviews with the fishermen and dealers, also serves the quality assurance purpose.

The TIP is a major component of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) in the southeastern U.S. Atlantic coastal region and the Commercial Fisheries Information Network (COMFIN) in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico coastal region. It also collects data from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for TIP data collection, reporting, and submission. These standards and procedures are to be followed for all sampling that is conducted by SEFSC employees, as well as state personnel, universities, and private consulting firms that are under grants or contractual arrangements with SEFSC/NOAA Fisheries.

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Sampling Guidelines

There are many difficulties inherent in dockside sampling; nevertheless, the TIP strives to ensure that the data collected are representative of the fisheries which are surveyed. To that end, the procedures in this document are guidelines which promote the collection of data in a consistent and well-documented manner. Without a set of standard procedures for data collection and reporting, analysis of the data becomes very difficult if not impossible. Although the TIP seeks to avoid bias in the collection of data, it provides for recording of bias, real or potential, where it may occur. Such documentation is extremely important to fisheries managers.

Guidelines are provided for the following aspects of the TIP:

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A. The Goal of the TIP

The goal of TIP is to obtain representative samples from targeted fisheries on the level of individual fishing trips. A representative sample is a sample that meets sound statistical criteria for (at minimum) describing a population. The populations are defined by fishery-gear-time-area strata. For practical reasons area is defined here by area of landing, not the fishing area. The samples collected must be representative in kind (e.g. species and size), in quantity (numbers and weight), and of fishery conditions (number of trips and vessels, gear type used). Sampling fishing trips at random within the specified strata should result in each vessel or fisherman occurring in the sample in proportion to the fishing activity.

B. Which Fisheries to Target

As stated in the previous section, the primary focus of the TIP is to collect representative fisheries-dependent data for use in stock assessments. An initial step in the data collection procedures is to identify fisheries which regularly land species that are the subject of current assessments or for which assessments are planned. In the past, TIP sampling was directed by 'Priority Fisheries' lists and sampling quotas. Currently, TIP species selection for NOAA Fisheries is no longer based on a Priority Species list. **Species sampled should be representative of the species landed in each region. Sampling priority should be given to federally managed fisheries and their associated catches.** TIP sampling in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic does not target highly migratory species or shark fisheries. The federally managed fisheries that TIP focuses on include reef fish and the snapper-grouper complex, mackerels and coastal pelagics, the jacks complex, and spiny lobster (in the South Atlantic, golden crabs are also federally-managed). The primary species sampled varies by region. Samplers should contact the TIP Coordinator for updates on priority species. State partners and partners in the ACCSP and COMFIN will have their own lists of 'priority fisheries'.

C. Where to Sample

Upon request by a sampler, reports will be provided listing landings of the NOAA Fisheries, SEFSC assessment species by county and month for the most recent available data. Samplers can refer to these reports when making decisions concerning which areas to focus on.

The location where sampling takes place will vary trip by trip. In the TIP, there are typically two locations involved; the landing dock and the dealer site. Vessels will not always land at the same dock or sell to the same dealer. Also, dealers may handle landings differently from day to day. **The preferred method is to sample the catch at the initial point of offloading.** This is really the only way the samplers can be sure at the time of sampling that they are seeing the entire landings. Sometimes the dealer is this initial point. In other cases, dealer sites can be used as back-up locations <u>only if</u> the sampler has access to the entire landing of a particular species from the trip. It is not recommended that samples be taken from retail markets, as the fish may have gone through several purchasing transfers and may not be completely representative of the individual fishing trip.

Although it is preferred that the entire landings of all species from a trip be available for sampling, this is not always possible. Sampling may take place if the agent can be sure he/she is seeing the entire landing of the sampled species for a particular trip. **Do not take samples of any species unless**

the entire landing of that species is available. This does not apply to non-random biological sampling such as for the taking of hard-parts, gonads and tissues to fill quotas. See section *F. Selecting Fish to Measure* for guidelines on what sample sizes to take.

Any considerations which may bias or limit areas of coverage should be documented. Electronic Mail is a good medium for documenting all situations where sampling is affected. The TIP Coordinator will then make the notes available to the fisheries managers. Contact the TIP Coordinator for guidance on specific situations that are not discussed in the manual and accompanying appendices, and/or if sampling locations in your area vary greatly from those described here.

D. Trip Selection

Selected fishing trips should be commercial in nature. This means trips which are undertaken solely for the purpose of selling the catch. On occasion, samplers will be asked to fill quotas for biological samples. In these cases recreational or fishery independent data may be entered into the TIP database, but it must be properly recorded as such. Selected trips should be primarily from federally managed fisheries described in Section B of this chapter. Because trip selection is no longer based upon the priority species list, samplers should use all of the resources available to them when selecting trips to sample. This includes opportunistic sampling, routinely contacting dealers and fishermen, and IFQ notifications. While the IFQ notifications are helpful, samplers with access to them should be careful not to over-utilize this tool, i.e. trips should not be selected solely from IFQ notifications, because there are numerous other commercial species that are not regulated by IFQs**. To obtain samples representative of the regional fleets, samplers should make every effort to routinely sample from as many vessels and gear types as possible throughout their entire area and season.**

In order to select sampling sites, it is necessary to project landings in that fishery/area/time frame by vessel or dealer. This usually will be done on the basis of historical landings. At the start of the fishing season, the landings from the prior season should be used as a starting point. The rest of the time, the most recent available data will be used. NOAA Fisheries Logbook Data and state 'trip ticket' data are valuable sources of historical landings. Samplers may be provided with target guidelines by their respective agencies or through the ACCSP and the COMFIN. Timely knowledge of the sampler will often supersede historical data. The samplers are generally aware of changes in the fishery long before they are reflected in the database. In these instances, samplers should prioritize sampling as best they can. The TIP Coordinator is ready to assist in providing historical landings the sampler may need to make target adjustments. Also, samplers should routinely check for and introduce themselves to new vessels and dealers in their area.

The purview of TIP is to obtain random, representative samples of the federally managed commercial fisheries in each region, and thus it is important that samplers do not impose bias by the selection process. Trips should be selected so they are representative of all aspects of the fishing activity in the sampler's area. That is, samplers should not continually select the same fishermen or dealers because they are more cooperative, or because they land more fish. It is recommended that samplers keep a record of the vessels and dealers they have sampled from each month, and refer to it in order to avoid over-sampling a particular vessel or dealer. It is important to obtain interviews

and samples from more trips rather than more samples from fewer trips.

There are practical problems involved with trip selection, such as time considerations and traveling distance. In most fisheries, it is difficult to schedule an intercept very far in advance. In addition, the time of landing may not coincide with the samplers' normal working hours. Samplers should try to keep a flexible schedule and document where odd landing hours become a hindrance to sampling. In order to sample at the point of landing, the sampler must remain in close contact with the selected vessel or dealer. In any case, it is required of the fishermen and dealers that they make their catch available for sampling. Try to maintain contact throughout the week with the vessels or dealers you have selected and be ready to sample if the landing time is within your schedule. Samplers with large areas should also document where traveling distance becomes a hindrance to sampling.

Samplers should also be aware of other TIP samplers in their area. When sharing an area with another TIP sampler (same or different agency), all samplers should try to keep in contact with each other in order to avoid (1) over-sampling a particular vessel or dealer, (2) jointly sampling a vessel (can't have double records for a trip, only one sampler should enter the trip into TIPOL), and (3) missing trips because of the assumption that the other sampler will be there. If difficulties arise in shared sampling areas, contact your immediate supervisor or the TIP Coordinator to resolve the issues.

If there are questions regarding sampling priorities and locations, contact your immediate supervisor. Feedback on the conditions and situations at the docks and dealer locations is very useful. If fishing patterns change so that certain species are not available for sampling, or other local conditions affect your ability to meet sampling targets, that information should be documented in written correspondence to the TIP Coordinator.

E. Conducting the Interview

Having a good working relationship with the captains in your area is essential. It is important to be on good terms with not only with the captains but with the dealers and crew as well; neatness and courtesy are extremely useful skills. Be diplomatic, considerate, and patient, but firm. It is important to continually build rapport with the dealers and captains in your area.

It is usually best to attempt an interview shortly after the vessel has landed at the dock. For some people, the strategy of a casual conversation will work best, while others might benefit more from the run-through of a standard data sheet and questions. Also, it is not always necessary to conduct the full interview before sampling begins; timing of the interview will depend on the speed of the offload, availability of the catch, and availability of the captain and/or crew.

Always try to approach the captain before you begin sampling to get an estimate of the size and species diversity of the landing. This will help you in determining the best method for sampling. Usually the dealer or processing crew will have already been in contact with the vessel and have an idea of this information as well.

F. Selecting Fish to Measure

Trip and fish selection is no longer associated with a priority species list. Because trip selection is based on the landings of federally managed commercial fisheries in each region, fish selection should also be representative of the species landed in each region. As with trip selection, the fish should be measured to provide data that are as representative as possible of the trip's landings. If fish from a trip are measured to meet biological sampling quotas such as for hard-parts, etc., and are not randomly selected, make sure that the data from this trip are clearly labeled in the TIP database as 'Quota Samples'.

Samples should be randomly selected from the entire landings for each trip interviewed to ensure that all individuals in the landing have an equal probability of being sampled. Sampling a catch randomly means you must select the next fish to be sampled without prejudice to size, color, or species. Samples should be representative in kind (e.g. species and size), in quantity (numbers and weight), and of fishery conditions (number of trips and vessels). Random selection from the entire landings should result in a sample that is relatively proportional to the species diversity and size range of the landings, thus providing a representative sample. For example, if the landings are comprised of 50% red grouper, 20% vermillion snapper, 10% red snapper, 10% other grouper and 10% porgies, the samples should be primarily red grouper (50%) followed by vermillion snapper (20%), with a few samples other grouper and porgy species, which may amount to 1 or 2 fish per each of these species.

It is possible to introduce bias into the data by not selecting the fish randomly. Bias can be introduced by not dispersing the samples taken by time, fishing location, landing location, etc. and by being selective of the individuals chosen for measurement, e.g. the tendency to pick out larger fish or the tendency to select fish from evenly from every size (resulting in a flat distribution that is not reflective of the true size distribution). Try to avoid purposive sampling and selection of fish in a manner that will introduce biases, e.g., always selecting large or small fish. Also try to avoid sampling individuals that were selected by the fishermen, as they might have a pre-conceived notion of what fish you should sample. If you do sample individuals targeted by a fisherman, dealer, or other person, make sure to mark them as non-random, targeted samples.

It is also important to randomly select individuals from the entire landing of that species in order to avoid any potential biases that may have occurred when the fish were stored onboard the vessel, e.g. the fish may be stratified by size and/or fishing locations. Sampling fish selected throughout the entire offload should allow for the sampling of multiple species, resulting in an overall sample that is representative of the species landed as well as the size and age range of these species. For landings that are sorted by size, the potential for size bias will be minimized but it is essential that samples (and sample numbers and/or weights) be obtained from all market categories in proportion to the number of fish in each category. If possible, the total number and/or weight of each sorted group should be recorded, before sampling begins, in order to sample each category in proportion to the overall landings.

It is not usually necessary to sample all of the fish from a trip. The emphasis in the TIP is on sampling more individual trips rather than taking a large number of samples from a few trips; of course, the number of trips available within a set of strata will depend on the fishery. For each trip, a maximum of 30 random age samples should be collected per species, where the random collection of fish is spaced out throughout the entire landing. In between taking age structures,

samplers should also measure lengths from all randomly selected fish (regardless of species). In the case of sorted landings, samples should be randomly selected from each market size category, and the number of samples from each category should be proportional to the number of individuals in that category. For trips with small landings, where only a few age structures would be able to be collected, the priority will be to collect lengths instead of lengths and age structures.

Complete random sampling is often neither feasible nor efficient and more complex procedures such as stratified, systematic and two-stage sampling may be used. It is best to follow some simple process like selecting every fifth or tenth fish to measure in order to avoid non-representative selection. Estimate the number of fish in the landings, or sorted portion of the landings, divide by 30 and round down to obtain the order of selection. This method works best for offloads on conveyor belt systems but can be adapted for situations where all of the fish are together in one container. Another frequently used sampling process is a form of systematic cluster sampling, where the sampler randomly selects a couple of samples (1-5) from each cluster/container or from a set number of clusters/containers taken throughout the entire landings. Reference the list of example scenarios that follow for more information on sampling methods.

General Sampling Guidelines

Port samplers should aim to follow the random sampling protocol while causing minimal interference to the unloading process. It is essential to work quickly and efficiently to avoid slowing the processor's operations. When possible, return the sampled fish to the container from which they were taken. If the container has been emptied, ask the crew where the fish should go. During sampling, be aware of the weighing and sorting processes, and remember to return the fish to where you collected them. On a hot day, keep fish on ice and out of the sun. If you selected fish that were already packed or on ice, make sure to repack and re-ice them upon return.

Refer to Chapter 3 for data collection guidelines and data entry, Chapter 4 for guidelines for bioprofile sampling, and the Appendices for TIPOL codes, data sheets, and detailed examples. Samplers should contact the TIP Coordinator if they are unable to determine the proper sampling method for a scenario they faced or if they are unsure how to report/code it in TIPOL.

Sampling Guidelines for the Six Most Common Sampling Scenarios:

During the offload / at the landing site

Landings come off the vessel unsorted on a conveyor belt

Randomly select fish off the belt to sample one at a time, selecting approximately every 10th or 20th fish, depending on the speed of the offload, speed of sampling, and amount of fish in the landing. This does not imply that you are expected to count the fish as they go by (although this would be the best method if it were practical) but instead you should aim to select samples continuously and as evenly as possible throughout the entire offload. Do not focus on only one species. It is best to set up the sampling station at a fixed point next to the belt in order to view the fish as they pass by, and to avoid roaming the length of the belt for sample selection.

Landings come off the vessel unsorted in baskets, bins or containers

Treat each container as a cluster, and select a sample of clusters (containers) by a random method or systematically (every n^{th}) to select samples from. Aim to sample from as many containers as possible throughout the entire offload. Randomly select several

(1-5) fish from a container, sample them and return them to the container, then randomly select more fish from a different container to sample. Continue this throughout the offload. The number sampled from each container will vary based on the size of the landing, species diversity, speed of the offload, and speed of sampling. In this type of sampling, what should never be done is to take a single basket or tote aside and completely work it up before starting on another basket or tote.

Landings are sorted in baskets or bins as they are offloaded

Before starting to sample, the sampler should ask the captain or processing crew for a rough estimate of the number or percentage of fish in each size category. This will allow the sampler to perform a mental calculation to determine the number of fish to sample from each category. Samples should be randomly selected from each size category (from each container) in proportion to the amount landed in each category.

Partial Sorting – landings come off the vessel unsorted but some are immediately sorted

Before starting to sample, the sampler should ask the processing crew if the majority of the species landed will be sorted into size categories of left unsorted. The samples should be selected from whichever sorting method contains the majority of the landings for that species. If time permits, the sampler should try to take samples from both the sorted and unsorted landings. Depending on the sorting method, samples should be randomly selected as described in the previous examples.

After the offload, at the dealer site

Landings are unsorted in bins or vats at the dealer

Treat each container as a cluster, and randomly or systematically select a sample of clusters to select samples from. It is best to start by asking the dealer for the total pounds landed per species and count the number of containers to calculate how many samples should be selected from each container to obtain a representative sample. When selecting samples from a large vat, it is best to start at one corner or side and select samples from the top down to the bottom (but this is not always possible). Always try to select samples from all of the containers, or from as many as possible, in order to obtain a sample that is representative of the entire landings.

Landings are sorted in bins or vats at the dealer

Select samples from all categories in proportion to the number of fish in each size category. Ask the dealer for the total pounds landed per species and size category. Determine the number of containers for each size category and use the information gathered to calculate the number of samples needed per category and container for proportional sampling. Randomly select samples from each container and category. When selecting samples from a large vat, it is best to start at one corner or side and select samples from the top down to the bottom.

G. Recording the Data

Refer to Chapter 3 - Data Collection and Reporting Procedures for instructions on what data to record, how to enter the data in the TIP Online application, the federal data entry schedule, and how to cross-check data. How the data are recorded in the field is left up to the sampler to some degree. The standard TIP Field Data Sheet should be used for recording data in the field. However, samplers may devise their own standard forms for field use as long as they address all aspects of the interview and sampling. The TIP Data Sheets should be filed neatly away as a valuable hard-copy

reference that will be used for data checking purposes. Do not throw away TIP data sheets. TIP Data Entry Forms are available in Appendix G, on the TIP website, or from the TIP Coordinator. The two primary methods for recording data in the field are TIP data entry forms, and electronic measuring boards (not standard issue). Other less common recording methods include notepads, tape recorders (not standard issue), and punch sheets (no longer standard protocol). See Appendix H for a complete list of required and optional sampling gear.

Samplers should spend some time checking their data sheets for errors at the end of every interview and/or sampling session. It is also best to record all trip information while still on site, when the information is fresh in the memory. In order to prevent data reporting errors, it is best to avoid transcribing data even if the original data sheets are messy. If transcription is necessary, a record (photocopy or original) of the field data should be stored with the transcribed data.

H. Data Confidentiality

Data collected during TIP sampling is classified as confidential and may not be released or shown to anyone other than the vessel permit holder, dealer, law enforcement officials, and holders of non-disclosure agreements. You should not discuss the details (e.g. landing size, fishing locations, product price) of any interview with anyone other than your cross checker and your supervisor, including other fishermen or dealers. You should not release even summarized data or give outreach presentations with summarized data without contacting your supervisor for clearance to do so. If your office is located in a room that is accessed by anyone without you being there, such as cleaning staff, TIP data sheets must be stored in locked file cabinets.

I. Safety and Sanitation

The following are some general guidelines on seafood sanitation and safety in biological sampling:

HACCP –Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Systems: Samplers should be aware that dealers have HACCP plans which they have submitted to the FDA to ensure that their product is safe. These plans follow a basic outline but differ from dealer to dealer. Dealers may have a person designated to oversee the HACCP at their dealership. The dealer should point out the guidelines to the sampler where they exist. Samplers should observe these guidelines. **When samplers visit new sites, they should inquire what sanitation/safety guidelines the dealer requires prior to taking samples**. In the absence of more specific standards, samplers should adhere to general guidelines which follow.

Instruments: Instruments should be calibrated and maintained according to manufacturer's specifications. Sampling instruments which contact the fish should be disinfected each day prior to taking samples and each time the sampling location changes during the day. More frequent cleaning may be necessary. Instruments need to be corrosion resistant; nevertheless, they may be treated with a rust preventative when stored. In this case, the instrument must be thoroughly washed with disinfectant soap and water to remove any traces of lubricant prior to sampling. A rusty instrument should be replaced. Tables, containers, and measuring boards provided by the sampler should be cleaned with disinfectant soap and water prior to each day's sampling and when location changes. More frequent cleaning may be necessary. Paper overlays to sampling boards such as

'punch sheets' should be cleaned or changed between locations. All instruments and contact surfaces must be rinsed to remove residue of soap or other cleaning agent prior to sampling. All water used for cleaning purposes should be from a treated source; for example, a municipal water supply system. There may be more than one source of water at a given location (ie. one may be treated, the other untreated). When in doubt, ask the dealer. Samplers should carry a source of clean water when going into situations where it may not be available (ie. at a boat ramp). Ice should be discarded after use at each location or more frequently if necessary.

Personal Hygiene: Samplers should wear outer garments suitable to the operation in a manner that protects against contamination of fish, fish contact surfaces or fish-packing materials. Samplers must maintain adequate personal cleanliness. Samplers must wash hands thoroughly (and sanitize if necessary) in an adequate hand washing facility before starting work, and after each absence from the work station. Hands should be dried with clean dry towels or other sanitary drying device. Samplers must remove all unsecured jewelry and other objects that might fall into the food or containers, and remove or cover any hand jewelry that cannot be properly sanitized. If gloves are used, they should be in an intact, clean, and sanitary condition. Gloves should be of an impermeable material. Samplers should not eat, chew gum, drink beverages, or use tobacco where the fish may be exposed or where equipment and utensils are washed. Samplers should wear a hat or head covering to keep hair out of contact with the fish.

Fish Handling: Fish should be handled in a manner so as not to decrease their market quality. Fish should be placed on surfaces or in containers, not thrown. If the fish have been on ice or in cold storage, they need to be put back there as soon as possible. This is especially true of shellfish and pelagic fish (tunas, mackerels, dolphinfish, wahoo). Fish should be replaced as they were before being selected. The dealer may want his own personnel to do this job; if not, it is up to the sampler. In general, the sampler should allow the fishermen or fish house personnel to handle the fish as they wish, as long as this does not interfere with proper sampling. When handling heavy fish, samplers should use gloves having a friction surface. For heavy fish in awkward locations (ie. at the bottom of a container), the sampler may wish to employ a device such as a snare to grab the tail so that the sampler can use adequate leverage when lifting the fish from the container. Any device such as a snare or hook should be approved by the dealer prior to use. If a fish is too heavy for the sampler, he/she should ask for assistance from fish house personnel.

Sampling Safety: Samplers should wear closed-toed shoes with adequate traction. When sampling on board a vessel or transport vehicle, samplers should enter and exit by the proper access/egress points. Samplers should always have both hands free to assist them in boarding or exiting a vessel or transport vehicle. No sampling should ever be done in a moving vehicle. When setting up a sampling station, samplers should avoid potential safety hazards such as mechanical processors, forklifts, etc. Samplers should be mindful of proper fish handling procedures such as outlined previously in order to avoid potential injury. Samplers should wear safety gloves when using a knife. Samplers should avoid confrontations with fishermen or fish house personnel. If ordered off the sampling location, the sampler should comply and refer the manner to their supervisor. Such incidents should be well documented as they may become compliance enforcement cases. Documentation would need to be detailed enough to answer the base questions: who, what, where, and when.

J. Sampling of Non-Commercial Fisheries

Although TIP is a commercial dockside sampling program, occasionally samplers will be asked to obtain interviews and samples from non-commercial sources. Unless specifically instructed otherwise by their supervisor, samplers should always put commercial trips ahead of non-commercial trips on their agenda. When non-commercial trips are sampled in TIP, biological sampling for hard parts, gonads, and tissues should be emphasized. In areas and times where commercial fishing is light or non-existent, non-commercial trips may receive increased attention. Such trips would be charter boats, 'head' boats, private/rental boats, tournaments, and scientific survey (fishery independent). Special instructions for these are as follows.

Charter Boats: These trips fall into a 'gray' area in that many charter vessels are also permitted as commercial vessels and many charter captains and crew have licenses to sell their catch. Since the TIP defines commercial trips as undertaken solely for the purpose of selling the catch, trips where passengers were taken along for a fee are excluded. Even though the TIP considers them non-commercial, catch may be sold commercially from these trips. When charter trips are sampled where fish are sold commercially and a 'trip ticket' is filled out the samplers should obtain the information from that ticket the same as if it were a commercial trip. In any case, Vessel ID and individual license number are required. Trip landing date, MRFSS site, gear, and primary area of catch are also required.

Head Boats: A 'head' boat is a vessel where customers pay by the person. Generally these vessels have a large customer capacity relative to charter boats. There may be cases where catch is sold and a trip ticket filled out. In these cases, the sampler should obtain that information. Otherwise, vessel id, landing date, MRFSS site, gear, and primary area of catch are required.

Private/Rental: Very rarely sampled in TIP. An exception would be a sampler happening on a very unusual catch. Landing date, vessel/boat id, MRFSS site, gear, and primary area of catch are required.

Tournaments: Sampling of tournaments should be cleared in advance with the area supervisor. Often the catch will be sold by the tournament organizer. If so, the sampler should obtain the trip ticket information. Landing date, MRFSS site, gear, and primary area of catch are required.

Scientific Survey: This means fishery independent data. Vessel ID, sampling, date if done on board vessel, landing date if shore based, gear, and area of catch are required. Record each tow or trawl as a separate interview if they are sampled individually. Notify the TIP coordinator with any questions on how to enter fishery independent data in TIP.