

SAMPLING GUIDE: BLOOD FROM SALMON

Correct sampling procedures and treatment of the samples are important to ensure optimal quality of the analysis. This protocol contains PatoGen's recommendations on how to ensure optimal quality for RT-PCR analysis. This protocol is part of PatoGen's quality control system.

Pre-labelled tubes, gel ice pack and packaging for transport of the samples to our laboratory is provided by PatoGen. The system is developed to prevent interchange and ensure quality of the blood sample that is submitted to PatoGen's laboratory.

Use sterile techniques when collecting the samples in order to avoid contamination between the different samples taken from different fish. Change syringe between each fish. Other tools that sampler may use during the sampling, for instance a tweezer, can be sterilized quickly by removing organic residuals before a bath in 30% chlorine for 30 seconds between each fish.

SAMPLE COLLECTION STEP BY STEP

Preparation:

- Prepare a stable and clean surface for sampling.
- Find the necessary sampling equipment: sample collection tubes, requisition form, syringes, tubes and pen and paper

Sampling:

- Anesthetize the fish with an anaesthetic
- Insert a needle attached to a syringe under the skin of the ventral midline of the caudal peduncle of an anesthetized fish, alternatively a lateral approach can be used by inserting the needle under the scales of the mid portion of the tail just below the lateral line at 45 degrees angle to the long axis of the fish in a cranial direction. Easy the needle towards the vertebral column until you reach the base of the column, withdraw the needle a fraction of a millimetre and obtain the blood sample.
- Remove and discard the needle in a sharp container.
- Release the fish into a recovery tank or pen or euthanize the fish.
- Insert the blood into heparinized tubes (invert the tubes a few times to ensure mixing)
- Keep samples on ice during all handling and transportation.
- Alternatives for shipment of the heparinised blood:
 1. Keep the whole blood in the anticoagulant tubes and send with ice gel packs.
 2. Pipette out 0.5 – 0.7 ml of the heparinised blood into one of the PatoGen tubes.

Registration of information

Register the sampling in PatoGen's requisition form (use for PCR). This can be downloaded from patogen.no.

Shipment

The test tubes should be put on cooling after sampling and posted as soon as possible.

Send the samples to PatoGen with a gel ice pack in the packaging you received from PatoGen. It is important to wrap a thin layer of insulating material around the tubes to avoid direct contact between the tubes and the ice gel packs to avoid freezing of the blood samples.

Send the samples by fastest shipping method to:

DHL International (UK) Ltd - West Avenue - Phoenix Industrial Estate – Paisley - PA1 2FB