

## GILL SWAB PROTOCOL

To ensure high-quality analyses, proper sample collection and handling are crucial. This guide outlines PatoGen's guidelines for collecting and handling swab samples.

The equipment is intended for single use and can be used to sample gills. The kits have a shelf life of six months (the expiration date is indicated on the side of the kit) and should be stored at room temperature until use. *By agreement, PatoGen can provide guidance on sample collection or training of personnel in sampling procedures.*

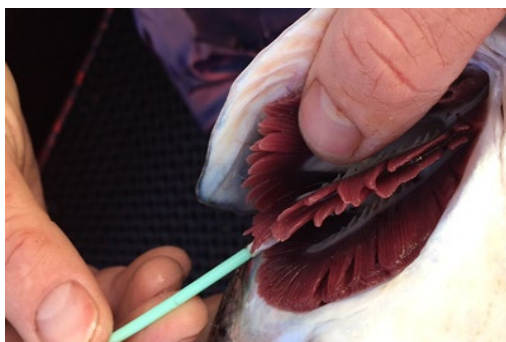
### Equipment:

- Tubes with ENAT-buffer
- Sterile swabs
- Disposable gloves
- Cold pack

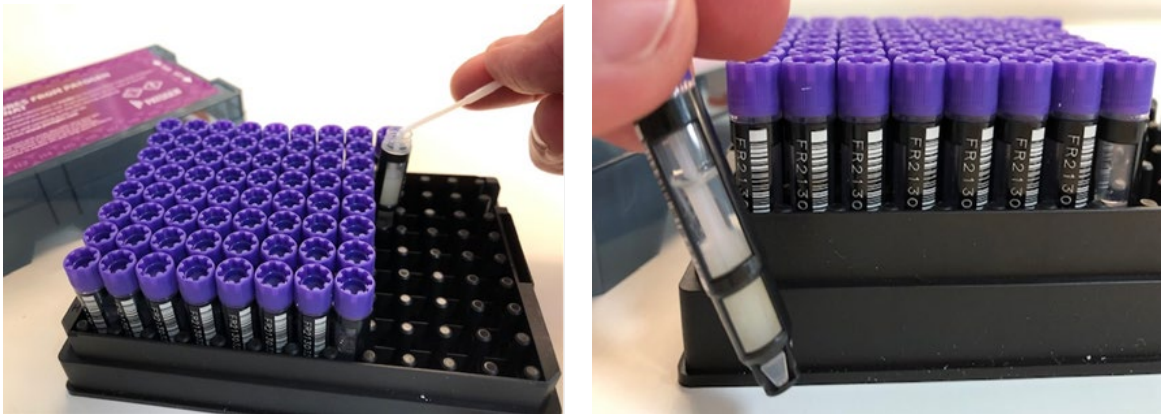


### Suggested sampling:

- Swabbing can be performed along with other operations, such as sea lice counting. The fish must be anesthetized prior to sampling, to minimize stress and harm to the fish.
- Lay the fish with its left side facing up. Keep the gill lid open while swabbing. Swab the outside and inside of the first gill arch. Continue in this manner with both sides of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> gill arches until the swab is fully saturated.
- Make sure that the swab is moved from the base of the gill to the tip, while you rotate the swab. If necessary, use tweezers to lift the gill lid to minimize contamination.
- Once the gills have been sampled, place the swab in the buffer tube.



- The swab has a slimmer breaking point that allows the swab tip to be snapped off. Once the swab tip is placed in the tube, screw the tube cap back on to secure the sample.



### Registration of information:

Register the samples electronically in PatoLink. *Contact us if you have questions about access or use of PatoLink.*

### Shipping:

If the entire kit is not used it can be stored in room temperature, allowing the remaining tubes to be used later.

Send the samples in a padded envelope with an ice pack, express overnight to PatoGen's laboratory:

### [Sending samples - PatoGen](#)

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