



Solid Tissue Collection

1. Collection kit contents:
 - Single-edged razor blades
 - Snap-cap microfuge tubes (5.0ml) filled to the midline with silica desiccant beads
 - Collection instructions
2. Put on latex gloves before handling animal tissue or carcass.
3. Please label each tube (or evidence bag) with the case, evidence, and/or item number, and complete the NOS Lab Request form. The NOS Lab Request form and a chain-of-custody should accompany the samples when shipped. Your agency's chain-of-custody form may be used, or we can provide one for you.
4. Excise enough tissue (such as muscle, skin, fin clip) to comprise approximately a 1:4 volume:volume ratio of tissue to desiccant in the cryogenic vial. The tissue sample should be approximately the size of a pencil eraser. Any more tissue and the drying process will be incomplete and the tissue may begin to decompose.
5. **To avoid contamination, use a new razor blade for each sample!**
6. Place tissue section in tube and cover with desiccant by shaking. **DO NOT overfill tube with tissue or the sample will decay.** Return the tube to its appropriate bag.
7. Maintain samples at cool temperature (ambient temperature) and out of direct sunlight.
8. Samples should be shipped overnight. Samples should only be shipped on Monday through Thursday, as no one is available to accept shipments at the lab on Saturdays.
9. Please email evidence.custodian@noaa.gov when samples are being shipped.
10. Ship samples to:

Evidence Custodian
NOS Marine Forensics Lab
219 Fort Johnson Road
Charleston, SC 29412
11. Dispose of razor blades in the provided sharps container. Please do not return the razor blades.

** This protocol of standard operating procedures (SOPs)/ guidelines (SOGs) fully incorporates the NOAA/ NCCOS Environmental Management Systems (EMS) requirements and conforms to the Executive Order 13423. The SOPs/SOGs include appropriate considerations regarding evaluating and minimizing an environmental footprint, and implementing energy and water conservation directives.*