



Blue Mussel Collection



Field Sampling: Mussel Collection

Materials:

- Ziploc bag
- Rite in the rain/waterproof paper
- Thermometer
- Refractometer
- Sharpie

Mussel Collection Steps

1. Collect blue mussels and tie up the mussel net at the same location where the phytoplankton tows occur

- a. Travel to a dense mussel bed and collect mussels from various locations in the bed
- b. If hand collection is too difficult, use a flat-head screwdriver or a small putty scraper
- c. Fill the mussel net with at least 150 mussels, the bigger the mussels you can find the better

2. Once a week, when the phytoplankton sample is collected, pull out 15-20 mussels and place them in a Ziploc bag

- a. Write the date and location on a small piece of waterproof paper and place it in the bag with the mussels
- b. Additionally, write the date and location on the outside of the Ziploc bag with a Sharpie

3. If the mussel sample is the only sample being taken,

- a. Write down the water temperature and salinity on the bag and the piece of paper
- b. Otherwise, the temperature and salinity can just be recorded on the phytoplankton datasheet

4. Place the mussel Ziploc bag in a freezer and send all frozen mussel bags with action packer

- a. If you have a small cooler, place frozen mussels and freezer pack in the cooler to ship with action packer
- b. If there is no cooler and there is room in the action packer, please double bag the mussels and add a frozen water bottle or freezer pack to keep the mussels cold
- c. contact APMI if you need a cooler or freezer packs