

SOP

Beach Collections

Purpose:

Describes the procedure for making collections in the field

Policy:

This is to be followed by public education fieldtrips, university programs fieldtrips, researcher and university programs individual projects collections

Responsibility:

Public education assistants, public education coordinator, university programs coordinator, university programs students, researchers.

Materials:

Buckets and plastic bags

Procedures

1. Before leaving for the collection site consider what you plan to bring back and what would be the best way to bring back that kind of animal. The collection of certain species, especially sessile or firmly attached organisms like sea anemones and chitons, should be done with care not to harm the animal. Please consult BMSC animal care staff for advice if necessary.
2. Ensure that your collection site is appropriate, for example collections are not allowed at Brady's Beach. A permit is required on Parks or First Nations land.
3. Trips that involve a fair bit of walking should not attempt to bring fish back in buckets. It is far too stressful for fish to be carried back this way. Collections of fish should only be made when there is access to a boat.
4. Buckets with a few inches of water in the bottom are adequate to bring back most invertebrates.
5. Small plastic bags can be filled with a little water and tied off to bring back smaller specimens that may be lost in a bucket. Fragile organisms can also be transported wrapped in seaweed (*Ulva*, non-slimy) and then placed in bags.
6. Investigators as well as fieldtrips should be aware of where they are stepping on the collection site. The shore is alive with animals and many suffer from the affects of trampling
7. Investigators and fieldtrips should be aware of any field research study sites where they are collecting and be careful to treat that sight with care and respect.

(Collections should only be made at a research site if it has been cleared with the research coordinator first).

8. Collection records must be entered into the BMSC collection record database, and if possible animals are to be returned to the site they were collected.