

CLINGFISH CARE

SOP# = OSTE1

PURPOSE: To describe methods of care for clingfishes.

POLICY: To provide optimum care for all animals.

RESPONSIBILITY: Collector and user of animals. If these are not the same person, user takes responsibility of animals as soon as the animals have arrived on station.

IDENTIFICATION:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Identifying features
Northern clingfish	<i>Goesox maeandricus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The body is flattened at the front and tapers towards the tail- Single dorsal fin located well back on the body-Large, broad head-Large adhesive disk on underside of body-Dark coloured-Hide under cover, attaching themselves to underside of rocks and logs 
Kelp clingfish	<i>Remicola muscarum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Slender bodies and narrow heads-Single dorsal located well back on body-Small adhesive disk on underside of body-Well camouflaged and attach themselves to marine plants and seaweeds- Color is emerald green, yellow or golden brown 

CAPTURE:

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shallow subtidal or intertidal habitat - Intertidal site on the shores of the Deer Group Islands, Dixon I., Scott's Bay, off the Blowhole, along Grappler Inlet and at the Harbor mouth across from Aguilar Pt.
Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Search under rocks and logs for the Northern clingfish, then dislodge by sliding its body along the shelter at the same time you're pulling it free off the rock or log - Kelp clingfish can be dip-netted from in amongst algae - Fish must be kept well oxygenated during the trip back to the lab - Ensure that you continually replenish fresh water during transportation

ANIMAL CARE:

Holding Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held in large tanks - Must have continually flowing seawater - Must aerate water - Provide rock shelter for Northern clingfish to reduce stress - Provide seaweed shelter for Kelp clingfish to reduce stress - Lids are necessary
Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Various small snails, worms and shrimp-like creatures - They will eventually eat chopped fish but it takes some time for them to adapt to it - Can be cannibals and they will eat their own kind - An aggressive feeder and in artificial habitat will quickly take food or bite your finger
Tank Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Every 2nd week, the clingfish should be removed from the tank with a net and placed into a holding bucket with a fitted lid and aerated water. - The tanks should be drained and the sides and bottom should be scrubbed and rinsed with warm freshwater - The tanks should then be rinsed with cold seawater and allowed to refill - Once water has filled the tank, the clingfish should be placed back inside
Daily Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure water is flowing into the tank at a reasonable rate. -Ensure the standpipe is in place and not blocked. -Check for and remove dead animals. -Check for and remove any uneaten prey organisms. -Check for and remove foreign organisms.
Animal Return	<p>Animals should be returned to the site of their collection. Be sure to have well oxygenated water in bucket that they are being returned in.</p> <p>If any anesthetic chemical has been used on the fish during it's holding at BMSC, the animal must not be released before the drug withdrawal time. Withdrawal time should be on the label of an anesthetic in degree-days, may be displayed as 'ATUs' (degree-days are the accumulated thermal units for a given day)</p>