

EELPOUT CARE
SOP# = Oste2

PURPOSE: To describe methods of care for eelpouts.

POLICY: To provide optimum care for all animals.

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

IDENTIFICATION:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Identifying Characteristics
Black belly eelpout	<i>Lycodes pacificus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Has a black mark at the front tip of its dorsal fin and a blackish belly- The dorsal, anal, and caudal fins are continuous- Eel-like in appearance- Long pectoral fins- The male has a longer snout and head than the female <p>Female:</p>  <p>Male:</p> 

CAPTURE:

Location	Lurk in muddy or sandy substrates at depths below 15m
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caught as bycatch in shrip trawl nets - Specimens are often damaged from nets - Should be transported to BMSC in well aerated water

ANIMAL CARE:

Holding Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These fish need to be held in continually flowing seawater - Lids are necessary - Sand or mud and rocks will help to reduce stress levels
Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feed these fish on clams, worms, shrimps and brittle stars - They will also eat frozen chopped fish or mussels
Tank Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once every 2-3 weeks, fish should be removed from the tank and placed into a holding bucket - 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, and the gunnels replaced.
Daily Activities	<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 - If any anesthetic chemical has been used on the fish during its 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 or 'ATUs' (degree-days are the accumulated thermal units for a given day. One day at 10C is 10 degree-days)

