

PERCH CARE
SOP# = Ostei9

PURPOSE: To describe methods of care for perches.

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
Kelp perch	<i>Brachyistius frenatus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kelp perch are coppery brown in color with large scales- Have a slight indent in the anterior profile at the head/body junction- They are found in dense kelp beds- Are up to 22 cm length 
Shiner perch	<i>Cymatogaster aggregata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Have three yellowish bars on each side- Large scales- They swarm in sandy, shallow-bottomed bays- Are up to 20 cm in length 

<p>Striped perch</p>	<p><i>Embiotoca lateralis</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have about 15 distinguishing horizontal blue stripes on each side - The dorsal fin is spiny on the anterior end and lower in height than the soft rayed part on the posterior end - These are commonly found along shallow, rocky shores or around wharves or pilings - They can be up to 37cm length 
<p>Pile perch</p>	<p><i>Rhacochilus vacca</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The snout of these fish are not as pointed as in other perch - The top of the head is slightly more rounded - They have two thick black stripes on a silver body - One stripe at the dorsal fin and one closer to the tail - Can be up to 45cm length - Yellow pelvic fin 

CAPTURE:

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Shallow intertidal sites along sandy or muddy shores- The shiner perch often comes up in shrimp trawl nets
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Perches can be collected either by hook and line, longline, trapping, seine nets.- Trawling can also be used, but few fish seem to survive this method.
Transport	**Please follow transport and handling of fish SOP.

ANIMAL CARE:

Holding Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Need to be held in continually flowing seawater- Water must be aerated- Lids are necessary to prevent escape, but also to provide cover for this highly distressed fish- Due to their nature, perch need plenty of habitat to help them feel comfortable and safe in their surroundings- This habitat includes sediment, and plenty of seaweeds such as kelp and eelgrass- They are schooling fish, they do not do well on their own or in numbers less than five
Feeding	<p><i>Brachyistius frenatus</i>: Feed on marine worms, shrimps, clams, crabs and other small crustaceans.</p> <p><i>Cymatogaster aggregata</i>: Feed on marine worms, mussels, snails, shrimps, clams.</p> <p><i>Embiotoca lateralis</i>: Feeds on worms, mussels, shore crabs, snails and clams.</p> <p>All 4 species will readily eat frozen chopped fish or mussels, fish flakes, and large zooplankton. Due to high metabolic needs, the fish should be fed at least every 2 days.</p>
Tank Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Once every 3-4 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 fish 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)
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