Shellfish dissection

Reference Number: RA17

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Risk Assessment by J Stewart

Activity	What are the hazards?	Who might be affected?	Risk Level			Control Measures	Risk Level		
			Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level		Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level
Handling shellfish, including use of pre-frozen samples	• Light crush/pinch injuries from live bivalve molluscs • Laceration injury from sharp shell edges and epifauna • Exposure to cold samples • Infection of open wounds	Staff, students, volunteers	2	2	4	• Body parts to remain clear of shell closure until adductor muscle adequately incapacitated (e.g. by freezing, cutting) • Visual assessment of sample to ascertain sharp areas with potential for injury, avoidance or removal of these areas where possible • Wear suitable gloves at all times • Thoroughly thaw frozen samples and only handle once warm enough to avoid cold injury. Warm hands as required at regular intervals • If injured, clean wound promptly and apply sterile waterproof dressing • Waterproof any open wounds and wear gloves as appropriate • Ensure hands are thoroughly cleaned after handling	2	1	2
Cleaning epifauna from shells of samples	• Laceration injury from removal tool • Repetitive strain injury • Material dislodged and directed towards eyes	Staff, students, volunteers	3	1	3	• Wear appropriate gloves during epifauna removal • Use blunt tools for removal of firmly-attached epifauna (e.g. slipper limpets) • Tool use for epifauna removal should be directed away from the eyes, body and hands/fingers	3	1	1

Activity	What are the hazards?	Who might be affected?	Risk Level			Control Measures	Risk Level		
			Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level		Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level
						• Workers to take breaks from activity if experiencing discomfort • Defective equipment to be taken out of use immediately and promptly fixed or replaced • Wear eye protection at all times during this process			
Shucking bivalve molluscs	• Light crush/pinch injuries from live bivalve molluscs • Laceration injury from sharp shell edges and epifauna • Exposure to cold samples • Laceration injury from shucking implement • Repetitive strain injury	Staff, students, volunteers	2	2	4	• Body parts to remain clear of shell closure until adductor muscle adequately incapacitated (e.g. by freezing, cutting) • Visual assessment of sample to ascertain sharp areas with potential for injury, avoidance or removal of these areas where possible • Shucking to be conducted as demonstrated by a competent individual, with sharp point or blade of shucking implement to be directed away from the body, hands and fingers at all times • Select appropriate tool for the size of the sample and the task at hand • Wear suitable gloves at all times • Thoroughly thaw frozen samples and only handle once warm enough to avoid cold injury. Warm hands as required at regular intervals • If injured, clean wound promptly and apply sterile waterproof dressing • Waterproof any open wounds and wear gloves as appropriate • Workers to take breaks from activity if experiencing discomfort	2	1	2

Activity	What are the hazards?	Who might be affected?	Risk Level			Control Measures	Risk Level		
			Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level		Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level
Dissection and measurement of soft tissue	• Laceration injuries from shell • Laceration injuries from cutting implements (scissors, knife) • Repetitive strain • Exposure to cold samples	Staff, students, volunteers	2	2	4	• Body parts to remain clear of shell closure until adductor muscle adequately incapacitated (e.g. by freezing, cutting) • Visual assessment of sample to ascertain sharp areas with potential for injury, avoidance or removal of these areas where possible • Dissection to be conducted as demonstrated by a competent individual, with sharp point or blade of dissection implements to be directed away from the body, hands and fingers at all times • Select appropriate tool for the size of the sample and the task at hand • Wear suitable gloves at all times • Thoroughly thaw frozen samples and only handle once warm enough to avoid cold injury. Warm hands as required at regular intervals • If injured, clean wound promptly and apply sterile waterproof dressing • Waterproof any open wounds and wear gloves as appropriate	2	1	2
All of above	• Infection risk from sample and/or associated fluids (including water after use for cleaning)	Staff, students, volunteers	2	2	4	• Avoid direct or indirect contact of sample material or associated fluids with open wounds, mouth or eyes. • Following exposure, wash exposure site thoroughly with fresh clean water. • Contact medical professionals if infection symptoms are experienced (exposure site irritation, redness and/ or swelling, symptoms associated with food poisoning)	2	1	2

Activity	What are the hazards?	Who might be affected?	Risk Level			Control Measures	Risk Level		
			Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level		Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level
						• Use waterproof covering for any open wounds • Use gloves and eye protection as appropriate • Lab coat available for use to avoid contamination of clothing			