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Water quality - Guidance on sampling of mesozooplankton from marine and brackish water using mesh

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**Water quality - Guidance on sampling of mesozooplankton
from marine and brackish water using mesh**

Qualité de l'eau - Document d'orientation pour
l'échantillonnage du mészooplancton dans les eaux de
mer ou saumâtres à l'aide de filets

Wasserbeschaffenheit - Anleitung zur Probenahme von
Mesozooplankton aus marinen und
Übergangsgewässern mittels Netzen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 15 March 2019.

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Contents

	Page
European foreword.....	4
Introduction	5
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references.....	6
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Principle	7
5 Sampling device	8
5.1 General.....	8
5.2 Nets.....	8
5.3 Other field equipment	10
5.4 Preserving solutions and other chemicals.....	11
6 Prearrangements of sampling	12
6.1 Documentation of strategies and methods.....	12
6.2 Preparation of sampling equipment	12
6.3 Safety instructions	12
7 Sampling procedure	12
7.1 Investigation programme	12
7.2 Number and location of sampling sites.....	13
7.2.1 General.....	13
7.3 Diurnal sampling period	14
7.3.1 General.....	14
7.3.2 Sample size	14
7.3.3 Geographical localization of sampling sites	14
7.4 Operating the sampling device.....	15
7.4.1 Vertical net hauls	15
7.4.2 Horizontal tows/hauls	15
7.4.3 Filling and labelling of sample bottles.....	16
7.4.4 Preservation and storage of samples.....	17
7.5 Field data recording	18
8 Quality assurance.....	18
Annex A (informative) Examples of sampling devices.....	19
A.1 Bongo nets	19
A.2 Continuous plankton recorder.....	19
A.3 WP2 net.....	20
A.4 Multinets	20
A.5 Gulf VII sampler	21
Annex B (informative) Preservation	22
B.1 Preservation.....	22
B.2 Formaldehyde (formalin)	22

B.2.1 General	22
B.2.2 Advantages of formaldehyde.....	22
B.2.3 Disadvantages of formaldehyde.....	23
B.3 Lugol's Iodine	23
B.3.1 General	23
B.3.2 Advantages of Lugol's Iodine (over formaldehyde)	23
B.3.3 Disadvantages of Lugol's Iodine	23
B.4 Ethanol.....	24
B.4.1 Advantages of ethanol.....	24
B.4.2 Disadvantages of ethanol.....	24
Annex C (informative) Corrections of depth from wire angle [1].....	25
Annex D (informative) Example of a field data sheet	26
Annex E (informative) Ribbon-sampling devices.....	27
E.1 Continuous plankton recorder (CPR).....	27
E.2 Longhurst Hardy plankton recorder (LHPR).....	27
Bibliography	28

European foreword

This document (EN 17218:2019) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 230 "Water analysis", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by November 2019, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by November 2019.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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Introduction

The Zooplankton community is an important part of the pelagic food web, since it forms the link between primary producers and higher trophic levels. Changes in phytoplankton biomass and species/size composition change mesozooplankton community structure and productivity. Such changes potentially influence fish stock recruitment and sedimentation (i.e. indirectly affecting oxygen concentration in the bottom water) [1].

Surveys of zooplankton have provided valuable information for the environmental monitoring of marine and brackish waters, because this group includes species which:

- occur in a wide range of marine and brackish waters over a large geographical area and at the same time have specific environmental requirements,
- are relatively well known with regard to their geographical distribution and environmental requirements, and
- have a generally high capacity for dispersal enabling them to respond rapidly to remedial actions,

while sampling requires only a modest expenditure of time and equipment.

A procedure for analysing zooplankton (identification, counting and biomass determination) in marine and brackish waters is given in EN 17204 [2]. This procedure comprises how to identify and enumerate zooplankton collected in nets which is utilized to estimate quantitative information on diversity, abundance and biomass with regard to spatial distribution and long-term temporal trends for a given body of water.

WARNING — Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices.

EN 17218:2019 (E)**1 Scope**

This document specifies procedures for sampling of mesozooplankton using nets and continuous ribbon-sampling devices in marine and brackish waters for the purpose of water quality assessment and determination of ecological status of ecosystems.

Guidance on sampling procedures and the subsequent steps of preservation and storage are given. The sampling procedures allow estimates of species occurrence and their abundance (relative or absolute), including spatial distribution and seasonal and long-term temporal trends, for a given body of water.

The described methods are restricted to the sampling of mesozooplankton that inhabit marine and brackish waters and exclude the shallow littoral zones which require a different type of sampling (e.g. zooplankton in salt marshes).

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

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