

# Preservation and cataloguing

# Preservation

- Preserved in formalin
  - Commercial formalin (40%) - diluted to 8-10%.
- Note colour patterns, blotches, spots, stripes and other morphological characters.
- Pack preserved fishes - plastic jars/bottles with tail pointing upwards
- Label - serial number, exact locality, date and time of collection, gear and craft employed, collected depth .
- Also include – sex, scientific name, popular name and name of the collector.

- < 10 cm (TL) - preserved in 8% formalin solution.
- 10% - for most of the fishes.
- 10-30 cm TL - a slit along the belly, to the right side of the midline of the body without injuring the alimentary canal.
- Formalin should be allowed to enter through this slit.
- Before preservation, stretch entire fish and fins on a measuring board

# Cataloging

- Facilitates retrieval & analysis of data
- Done after identifying the species.
- All specimens of one species collected at one locality or expedition are entered in the catalogue.

- Catalogue entries of fishes must contain the following items:
  - Consecutive museum number
  - Original field number
  - Scientific name
  - Sex
  - Exact locality
  - Date of collection
  - Name of collector
  - Method of capture
  - Depth of capture
  - Remarks