

## HANDLING OF "ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS" (BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES)

### Definition

*Animal by-products* are carcasses, parts of carcasses or products of animal origin that are not intended for human consumption. This includes biological sample material. This includes, in the context of our research:

- "Aquatic animals"
  - Fish (Chondrichthyes, Osteichthyes)
  - Molluscs (Mollusca)
  - Crustaceans (Crustacea)
- (Marine) Mammals (Mammalia)
- Birds (Aves)

Live animals do not count as *animal by-products*. Separate regulations apply to the import of live animals. Due to EU regulations for *animal by-products* and customs regulations, AWI is obliged to comply with legal requirements both for import and further handling of biological samples, with the aim of avoiding a spread of risks to human and animal health. This concerns:

- (1) [border control during the import of samples in the course of international expeditions \(outside the EEZ or the EU and its special areas e.g. Greenland/Faroe Islands\),](#)
- (2) [border control during the import of samples from European \(incl. EFTA states e.g. Island/Norway\) and landing of samples from national waters \(expeditions within the EEZ / 12-mile zone\),](#)
- (3) [transfer of sample material in Germany and within the EU, or](#)
- (4) [outside the EU, and](#)
- (5) [the disposal of sample material at the AWI sites, including the documentation and archiving required for the respective processes.](#)

Registration is required in order to handle animal by-products. AWI sites are registered with the respective competent veterinary authorities:

- a) DE 04 012 0007 21 Bremerhaven,
- b) DE 01 056 0001 21 Helgoland,
- c) DE 01 054 0001 21 Sylt,
- d) DE 12 054 0037 21 Potsdam.

Competent veterinary authorities are:

- a) [Lebensmittelüberwachungs-, Tierschutz und Veterinärdienst](#) of the federal country of Bremen (LMTVet) in Bremen
- b) [Veterinär- und Lebensmittelaufsicht](#) of the Kreisverwaltung Pinneberg *ibidem*,
- c) Veterinäramt, Fachdienst Veterinärwesen of the Kreisverwaltung Nordfriesland in Husum (the institutions mentioned under b) and c) are subordinate to the Ministry for Energy Transition, Agriculture, Environment, Nature and Digitalization (MELUND) in Kiel), and

- d) Landeshauptstadt Potsdam, FB Ordnung und Sicherheit Veterinär- und Lebensmittelüberwachung in Potsdam.

## Implementation

### **(1) Import from international waters**

For the landing of sample material in the sense of *animal by-products* from **international waters**, an import permit is required, which is applied for by the Logistics & Research Platforms Department in the Cargo Handling, Customs, Dangerous Goods Division at the veterinary authority on the basis of the *freight* and *packing lists* prepared on board and deposited at the border control point in connection with a release certificate, which must also be applied for. For this purpose, the required information on the samples obtained must be entered on board into AWI's *Expedition Interface System* (EIS) by the participants no later than 10 working days before entering the port.<sup>1</sup>

The taxon that can be determined on board is sufficient for entry into EIS; if necessary, e.g. in the case of mixed catches that are not sorted on board, a summary description with higher-level taxa is also sufficient. A German or generic name or a trivial name preceding the Latin species and genus name is not mandatory, but, if available, helpful; e.g. for the border control point and the veterinary authority and facilitates there the assessment of the material.

The stored information is retrieved from EIS via freight and packing lists by the Logistics & Research Platforms Department in the Cargo Handling, Customs, Dangerous Goods division and is required to carry out the approval procedure. No import is possible without approval and release certificate!

For the collection or sharing of the samples the procedures as described under (3) and (4) apply.

Transport of samples, which are to be imported via international ports of call, is usually handled by agencies, which also request the documentation and take care of the further procedure. This must be arranged by the responsible scientist in consultation with the Logistics & Research Platforms Department ([logistik.zoll@awi.de](mailto:logistik.zoll@awi.de)) at least 10 working days before the arrival in port.

### **(2) Import from EU (incl. EFTA) waters or landing from national waters**

For landing of sample material in the sense of animal by-products from EU waters (including waters of EFTA countries) documentation and customs declaration are required.

For landing of sample material in the sense of animal by-products from national waters (EEZ) *only* their documentation is required.

For this purpose, the required information on the samples obtained must be entered on board into EIS by the participants no later than 2 working days prior to the arrival. The information is retrieved from EIS via freight and packing lists and archived by the Logistics & Research Platforms Department in the Cargo Handling, Customs, Dangerous Goods Division. AWI is obligated to provide documentation to the veterinary authority.

The taxon that can be determined on board is sufficient for entry in EIS; if necessary, also a summary description with higher-level taxa, e.g. for mixed catches that are not determined on board to species level. A German name or a trivial name preceding the Latin species and genus name is not mandatory, but, if available, helpful; e.g. for the border control point and the veterinary authority and facilitates there the assessment of the material.

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<sup>1</sup> Should samples still be obtained until shortly before entry, the Logistics and Research Platforms Department ([logistik.zoll@awi.de](mailto:logistik.zoll@awi.de)) should be informed about the status of the sample collection and the expected species composition at this time so that the procedure can already be initiated.

An exception is Heligoland; samples that have already been stored on the island after their collection must subsequently be imported via an import declaration or a return goods regulation at other locations. This must be arranged by the responsible scientist in consultation with the Logistics and Research Platforms Department ([logistik.zoll@awi.de](mailto:logistik.zoll@awi.de)) at least 10 working days before arrival.

Transport of samples, which are to be imported via international ports of call, is usually handled by agencies, which also request the documentation and take care of the further procedure. This must be arranged by the responsible scientist in consultation with the Logistics and Research Platforms Department ([logistik.zoll@awi.de](mailto:logistik.zoll@awi.de)) at least 10 working days before arrival.

### **(3) Sharing with other institutions in Germany and within the EU**

Outside of EIS, e.g. for the transfer of material to other institutions, the documentation can be done with the AWI freight and packing lists for normal freight and dangerous goods. These lists can be found here: <https://www.awi.de/en/about-us/logistics/freight-handling.html> see under *Handling of animal by-products & biological samples* (red font in these lists indicates deviations from the usual and should not be formatted in red when submitted).

If samples are to be passed on to other institutions after the expedition, a *commercial document* is also required in conjunction with the freight and packing lists. Onward transfer requires that the receiving institution be registered to handle animal by-products. A complete list of registered institutions in Europe can be found here: [https://www.bmel.de/DE/themen/tiere/tiergesundheit/tierische-nebenprodukte/tierische-nebenprodukte\\_node.html](https://www.bmel.de/DE/themen/tiere/tiergesundheit/tierische-nebenprodukte/tierische-nebenprodukte_node.html)).

**Important to know:** AWI is only allowed to pass on to registered institutions! The registration number must be entered in the commercial document together with the other information and the samples to be delivered must then be recorded on the freight/packing lists. The transport should also be accompanied by these papers. The commercial document can be found here: <https://www.awi.de/en/about-us/logistics/freight-handling.html> see there under *Handling of animal by-products & biological samples*.

Basically, the responsible scientist is responsible for the documentation. Freight list, packing list and commercial document are considered as proof of delivery and should be sent as pdf-scan to [logistik.zoll@awi.de](mailto:logistik.zoll@awi.de) and [horst.bornemann@awi.de](mailto:horst.bornemann@awi.de) after passing on the samples for documentation.

### **(4) Sharing with other institutions outside the EU**

The same rules as under (3) apply here *mutatis mutandis*, as well as any national regulations of the recipient country in addition.

### **(5) Disposal of animal by-products and further documentation**

AWI employees in Bremerhaven can store sample material in the sense of animal by-products in the freezers in building E in *disposal room E-0140* for disposal. The sample material should be hygienically packed for this purpose. Larger quantities should be announced in advance to the Technology & Environmental Protection Department ([altgeraete.entsorgung@awi.de](mailto:altgeraete.entsorgung@awi.de)), which will arrange for disposal if necessary and will also take care of the documentation and archiving of the disposal documents. Other sites and institutes arrange disposal with the office responsible for them.

AWI is approved by the competent veterinary authority for this simplified procedure for handling *animal by-products*. A general archiving period of two years applies to all procedures. Basically, the responsible scientists must be able to give information about the whereabouts of their samples! You can find this and further information also on the AWI web pages under:

- <https://www.awi.de/en/about-us/logistics/freight-handling/customs.html> (s. Sample material),
- <https://www.awi.de/en/about-us/logistics/freight-handling.html> (see Handling of animal by-products & biological samples).

## Legal basis

The legal requirements are *Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption* and the *Implementing Regulation (EC) No 142/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption*, as well as in German national law the *Animal By-Products Disposal Act* (“Tierisches Nebenprodukte-Beseitigungsgesetz”) and the *Animal By-Products Disposal Ordinance* (“Tierische Nebenprodukte-Beseitigungsverordnung”). Other legal provisions and international agreements, in particular the *Nagoya Protocol*<sup>2</sup>, the *Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*<sup>3</sup>, and the *Regulation (EU) on invasive alien species*<sup>4</sup>, which are important for biological sample material, remain unaffected; it is the responsibility of the scientists handling the material to comply with these regulations.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nagoyaprotocol-hub.de>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wisia.de/> and <https://www.bfn.de/themen/cites.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bmu.de/themen/naturschutz-artenvielfalt/artenschutz/nationaler-artenschutz/invasive-gebietsfremde-arten> and <https://neobiota.bfn.de/>