AQUI-S®

using the
IKI JIME TOOL

TECHNICAL NOTE SERIES 2

WHAT IS IKI JIME?

IKI JIME is a traditional Japanese technique used to kill fish by brain ablation. Although the brain is not removed when killing fish by IKI JIME, the brain tissue is effectively destroyed. It is important to destroy the hind-brain of the fish with the IKI JIME technique, this is where movement control is centred.

BENIFITS OF IKI JIME

Killing the fish quickly and immediately after capture delays the rigor mortis process when compared to fish that are left to die by slower methods such as bleeding-out or chilling. With the complete destruction of the brain and, in particular, the hind brain, there is no movement from the fish and therefore any energy remaining in the muscle tissue is used to maintain cellular metabolism post harvest. This delays the rigor mortis process and also the degradation of the tissue. It results in a far superior quality flesh to conventional slaughter methods, where the energy reserves are depleted very shortly after capture.

A major benefit of the IKI JIME technique is that it provides a humane method for killing the fish. Chill killing or bleeding out can often take several minutes for the fish to be killed, during which time the animal exhibits normal escape response behaviour and consequently depletes the energy reserves in the muscle tissue.

SPECIFICATIONS

- ☐ Spike and Sleeve 316 Stainless Steel
- ☐ Plastic Handle Weight : 136g
- ☐ Wooden Handle Weight : 124g

THE IKI JIME TOOL

The IKI JIME TOOL is made of durable materials with an option for either a plastic or wooden handle; see Figure 1. The IKI JIME TOOL has been specifically designed so that the curve of the metal spike follows the natural line of the brain canal. This ensures that the IKI JIME procedure can be completed with one swift easy movement. For immediate death it is important to ensure that the brain has been ablated and not just severely injured.

Figure 1

THE IKI JIME METHOD

There are several ways of carrying out the IKI JIME technique. Figure 2 shows the spike inserted through the top of the head of a salmon, approximately 2 cm behind the eyes where salmon have a small dip in the skull. By penetrating the skull at this point the IKI JIME TOOL will curve around and along the channel housing the brain, destroying the brain completely.

For other species of fish that have a very bony skull the IKI JIME TOOL should be inserted through the gill arch to come in underneath the brain (this method can also be used on small fish) or at the posterior end of the eye socket.

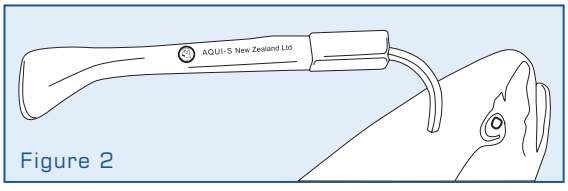

Figure 2

AQUI-S NEW ZEALAND LTD.
PO Box 44-269, Lower Hutt, New Zealand, Tel +64 4 587 0389, Fax +64 4 587 0388 sales@aqui-s.com www.aqui-s.com