



# DAACS Cataloging Manual: Faunal

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*DAACS Cataloging Manuals document how artifacts, contexts, features, objects and images are cataloged into the DAACS database. They provide information not only about artifact identification but also about how each database field is used and how data should be entered into that field.*

*The DAACS database was developed by Jillian Galle and Fraser Neiman, in collaboration with members of the [DAACS Steering Committee](#). Jillian Galle and DAACS Staff, Leslie Cooper, Lynsey Bates, Jesse Sawyer, and Beatrix Arendt, led the development of cataloging protocols. In addition to DAACS staff and steering committee members, Monticello current and former Archaeology Department staff, Fraser Neiman, Jennifer Aultman, Sara Bon-Harper, Derek Wheeler, Donald Gaylord, Karen Smith, and Nick Bon-Harper also contributed to the development of cataloging protocols. Jennifer Aultman and Kate Grillo produced the initial versions of these DAACS manuals in 2003. They have been substantially revised by Cooper, Galle, and Bates in the intervening years.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The DAACS faunal tables were produced in conjunction with Joanne Bowen, Greg Brown, and Steve Atkins of Colonial Williamsburg and are based on Colonial Williamsburg's CWBONE program. Their assistance with the DAACS faunal tables is greatly appreciated.

This document provides basic explanations for fields in the DAACS faunal tables. In many cases, a simple list of authority terms available for a field is presented. For those fields where the number of authority terms is large (some fields have hundreds of possible values), individual terms are not listed in this document. Rather, a general explanation for the field is given. Where applicable, publications that present standard faunal analysis coding systems used in these tables are referenced.

To date, all of the faunal data presented via the DAACS website has been generated by Mr. Steve Atkins, Dr. Joanne Bowen, Mr. Greg Brown, and Ms. Dessa Llightfoot, zooarchaeologists at Colonial Williamsburg's Zooarchaeology Laboratory. Zooarchaeologists Susan Andrews Trevathen and Elizabeth Reitz have also contributed data to DAACS.

There are faunal data in the DAACS database that are not presented online that have been generated by archaeologists who have had a range of training in faunal analysis, from none to some graduate courses and practical experience. Data generated by non-zooarchaeologists, or non-specialists, provide only very conservative and general descriptors, with many data fields not recorded.

**Please note that faunal cataloging protocols are presented below for two levels of users: the trained zooarchaeologist and the cataloger who may have only some, if any, training in faunal analysis and who is not a faunal specialist.**

## FAUNAL CATALOGING PROTOCOLS FOR THE NON-SPECIALIST

### 1. MAIN FAUNAL TABLE

#### ARTIFACT ID

Automatically generated number.

## 1.2 ARTIFACT COUNT

Number of bones batched under this artifact ID. Batching occurs by Taxon and no other fields.

## 1.3 RELIABILITY

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

## 1.4 TAXON NAME

This field is a combination of the Latin taxon name followed by the English taxon name. Choose **ONLY** the following Taxon from the pull-down list in the database.

Taxon Name	Latin	English
Class Crustacea Crustacean	Class Crustacea	Crustacean
Class Osteichthyes Bony Fish	Class Osteichthyes	Bony Fish
Class Amphibia Amphibian	Class Amphibia	Amphibian
Class Reptilia Reptile	Class Reptilia	Reptile
Class Aves Bird	Class Aves	Bird
Class Mammalia Mammal	Class Mammalia	Mammal
Subphylum Vertebrata Other Vertebrate	Subphylum Vertebrata	Other Vertebrate

## 1.5 ELEMENT NAME

Choose **ONLY** the following Elements from the pull-down list in the database. We highly recommend selecting Unidentified when uncertain about element type.

Element
Antler
Baculum
Claw
Cranium
Mandible
Maxilla

Rib
Scale
Scapula
Tooth
Tooth Row
Vertebra
<b>Unidentified</b>

### 1.6 SYMMETRY

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 1.7 NISP

Leave this field blank.

### 1.8 WEIGHT

Recorded in grams. If the bones are batched, record batched weight.

### 1.9 LOCATION

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 1.10 DESCRIPTOR

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 1.11 FUSION

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 1.12 RELATIVE SIZE

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 1.13 SEX

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.



### 1.14 CHEWING TYPE

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 1.15 CHEWING LOCATION

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 1.16 FRESH BREAK?

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 1.17 IDENTIFIER

Leave blank.

### 1.18 DATE IDENTIFIED

Automatically updated.

### 1.19 NOTES

We understand that some non-specialists may have taken classes in faunal analysis and may be able to identify more specific Taxons, Elements, butchery methods, etc. You may use the notes field to include your thinking on the bone.

## 2. TOOTH INFORMATION TABLE

### 2.1 TOOTH TYPE

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 2.2 TOOTH WEAR

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

## 3. CONDITION

### 3.1 DISEASE OR TRAUMA

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 3.2 WEATHERED

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 3.3 BURNED

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 3.4 CONDITION

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

## 4. BUTCHER AND CUT INFORMATION TABLE

### 4.1 BUTCHER METHOD

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 4.2 BUTCHER LOCATION

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 4.3 BUTCHER DIRECTION

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 4.4 NO. OF MARKS

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 4.5 CUT TYPE

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 4.6 CUT LOCATION

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

### 4.7 CUT DIRECTION

Always select N/R for “Not Recorded”.

## 5. MEASUREMENT TABLE

### 5.1 MEASURING DESCRIPTION

Leave all measurement fields blank.

## FAUNAL CATALOGING PROTOCOLS FOR THE ZOOARCHAEOLOGIST

### 1. MAIN FAUNAL TABLE

#### 1.2 ARTIFACT ID

Automatically generated number.

#### 1.2 ARTIFACT COUNT

Number of bones batched under this artifact ID.

#### 1.3 RELIABILITY

Always select cf,

#### 1.4 TAXON NAME

Choose from the pull-down list in the database. Enter the most specific taxon to which the bone can be identified.

#### 1.5 ELEMENT NAME

Choose the most specific element name possible from the pull-down list.

#### 1.6 SYMMETRY

Choose "left," "right," or "axial" (centerline of body) if the bone can be sided. Otherwise, enter "indeterminate."

#### 1.7 NISP

Number of identified specimens.

## 1.8 WEIGHT

Recorded in grams.

## 1.9 LOCATION

Indicates which fraction of an element is present.

## 1.10 DESCRIPTOR

Indicates the presence of diagnostic features (such as particular processes, tuberosities, etc.).

## 1.11 FUSION

There are two sets of fusion terms:

For bones with only one epiphysis (such as scapula, innominate, metapodials, phalanges, etc.):

**“Fused”**  
**“Unfused”**  
**“Fusing”**

For bones with two epiphyses (such as humerus, radius, femur, tibia, fibula, etc.):

**“Proximal fused, distal fused”**  
**“Proximal fused, distal fusing”**  
**“Proximal fused, distal unfused”**  
**“Proximal fused, distal indeterminate”**  
**“Proximal fusing, distal fused”**  
**“Proximal fusing, distal fusing”**  
**“Proximal fusing, distal unfused”**  
**“Proximal fusing, distal intermediate”**  
**“Proximal unfused, distal fused”**  
**“Proximal unfused, distal fusing”**  
**“Proximal unfused, distal unfused”**

**“Proximal unfused, distal indeterminate”**

**“Proximal indeterminate, distal fused”**

**“Proximal indeterminate, distal fusing”**

**“Proximal indeterminate, distal unfused”**

**“Indeterminate”**

### 1.12 RELATIVE SIZE

**“Adult”**

**“Large adult size”**

**“Small adult size”**

**“Small and immature”**

**“Indeterminate”**

### 1.13 SEX

**“Male”**

**“Female”**

**“Indeterminate”**

### 1.14 CHEWING TYPE

**“Carnivore”**

**“Human”**

**“Indeterminate”**

**“Multiple chewing types”**

**“Possibly chewed”**

**“Rodent”**

## 1.15 CHEWING LOCATION

Where on the bone the chewing is noted:

**“Anterior end of fragment” (ANT)**

**“Both ends of fragment” (BTH)**

**“Central part of fragment” (CEN)**

**“Distal end of fragment” (DSE)**

**“Indeterminate” (I)**

**“Posterior end of fragment” (PST)**

**“Proximal end of fragment” (PXE)**

## 1.16 FRESH BREAK?

Simply indicate “yes,” “no,” or “probably”

## 2. TOOTH INFORMATION TABLE

### 2.1 TOOTH TYPE

**“Adult “**

**“Deciduous”**

**“Indeterminate”**

### 2.2 TOOTH WEAR

Indicates degree of eruption, and amount of wear if erupted.

### 3. CONDITION

#### 3.1 DISEASE OR TRAUMA

Choose “yes,” “no,” or “probably”

#### 3.2 WEATHERED

Choose “yes,” “no,” or “probably”

#### 3.3 BURNED

Choose “yes,” “no,” or “probably”

#### 3.4 CONDITION

“Conserved,” “mended,” or “poor”

### 4. BUTCHER AND CUT INFORMATION TABLE

#### 4.1 BUTCHER METHOD

**“Axed”**

**“Axed, probably”**

**“Sawed”**

**“Sawed, probably”**

**“Hacked”**

**“Hacked, probably”**

#### 4.2 BUTCHER LOCATION

**“Anterior end of fragment”**

**“Both ends of fragment”**

**“Central part of fragment”**

**“Distal end of fragment”**

**“Indeterminate”**

**“Posterior end of fragment”**

**“Proximal end of fragment”**

#### 4.3 BUTCHER DIRECTION

**“Diagonal”**

**“Longitudinal”**

**“Parallel to one another”**

**“Perpendicular to one another”**

**“Random”**

**“Transverse”**

#### 4.4 NO. OF MARKS

Simply enter the number of cut marks observed.

#### 4.5 CUT TYPE

**“Cut”**

**“Cut, probable”**

**“Hack”**

**“Hack, probable”**

**“Knife”**

**“Knife, probable”**

#### 4.6 CUT LOCATION

**“Anterior end of fragment”**



**“Both ends of fragment”**

**“Central part of fragment”**

**“Distal end of fragment”**

**“Indeterminate”**

**“Posterior end of fragment”**

**“Proximal end of fragment”**

#### 4.7 CUT DIRECTION

**“Diagonal”**

**“Longitudinal”**

**“Parallel to one another”**

**“Perpendicular to one another”**

**“Random”**

**“Transverse”**

### 5. MEASUREMENT TABLE

#### 5.1 MEASURING DESCRIPTION

Indicates which specific points on which bones were measured using standard codes from:

von den Driesch, Angela

1976 *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites.*

Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology,  
Harvard University.

#### 5.2 MEASUREMENT

Record measurement in millimeters.