

**Supplementary Table 1.** Detailed break-down of linker amplification method, including time and cost estimates from sample-to-sequence for a typical 20 L aquatic virus sample.

<b>1. Ligation</b>		<i>time/sample</i>	<i>\$/sample</i>	<i>kit used</i>
a	Ultrasonic shearing of DNA to 400-800 bp, Covaris	1 week*	\$20**	*time depends on turn-around of facility, actually process approx. 5 min; **price includes Agilent Bioanalyzer fragment sizing
b	Concentrate Sheared DNA	15-20 min	\$3.40	Amicon Ultra-0.5ml 30K (UFC503096)
c	End repair DNA	1 hr	\$5	Epicentre Biotechnologies
d	Clean-up reaction	10 min	\$2.30	Qiagen MinElute or QiaQuick (#28104)
e	Ligate Fwd and Rev linker to DNA	2 hr	\$2.40	Fast-Link Ligation Kit, Epicentre (LK0750)
f	Clean-up reaction	10 min	\$2.30	Qiagen MinElute or QiaQuick
f-i	Size Fractionation: SPRI Beads	20 min	\$0.85	Agencourt AMPure XP; Beckman Coulter A63880
	<i>or</i>			
f-ii	Size Fractionation: gel-sizing	3 hr	\$1.40	Seakem GTG Agarose
	DNA recovery: gel extraction	0.5 hr	\$2.20	QiaQuick MinElute gel extraction kit
	<i>or</i>			
f-iii	Size Fractionation: Pippin Prep	5 min	\$11.25	Sage Science cassette kit
<b>2. Amplification</b>		<i>time/sample</i>	<i>\$/sample</i>	<i>kit used</i>
a	Small-scale PCR titration: determine optimal cycle #	1-2hr	\$26.30	LA TaKaRa HS polymerase
b	Large-scale PCR	1-2hr		
c	Reconditioning PCR	0.5 hr		
d	PCR clean-up	10 min	\$2.50	Qiagen MinElute or QiaQuick
e	Pico Green Quantification	0.5hr	\$1.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1-2 days work (1 week wait*)</b>	<b>\$67.50</b>	