Michigan Clean Water Corps

Spring and Summer PHOSPHORUS

Procedure Checklist

Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program

Equipment Checklist

- ☐ Boating safety equipment* and anchor*
- ☐ Copy of phosphorus procedure checklist
- ☐ Two 250-ml plastic bottles (mailed to you prior to your sampling date)
- ☐ Two phosphorus sample labels (mailed to you prior to your sampling date)
- ☐ Data sheet
- ☐ Pencil* or permanent ink pen*
- ☐ Ice pack*
- ☐ Fine tip permanent black marker*
- ☐ Towel for drying hands*
- ☐ Insulated cooler bag and freezer*
- ☐ 2 zip-lock freezer bags*

**provided by volunteer*

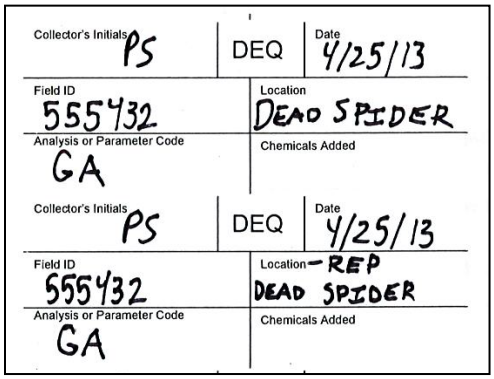
Data Collection

Sampling location, frequency, and timing

☐ 1. Phosphorus water samples need to be taken over the deepest basin in the lake.
☐ 2. For spring phosphorus samples, the samples must be taken within 2 weeks of ice-out as judged by the volunteer. Ice out is when you can safely navigate to the deepest location of the lake without hitting ice floats.
☐ 3. Summer phosphorus samples will be taken in late August through September, depending on the lake's latitude. Refer to the provided phosphorus sampling schedule for exact sampling dates.

A. Prepare for sampling

☐ 1. Before you begin sampling, fill out the data sheet (Lake Name, County, Date, Field ID #, etc.).
☐ 2. Use the **fine tip permanent black marker** to fill out the bottle labels and attach to bottle before they get wet.
☐ 3. Write GA for the parameter code.
☐ 4. Write "-REP" on the second bottle label by the lake name.



B. Proceed to your monitoring location over the deepest point in the lake

☐ 1. Turn off your motor and drift over the deepest point in the lake. For windy days, you may need to anchor the boat to stay over the deepest point in the lake while sampling. Lower the anchor and allow the boat to drift over the sampling location before securing the anchor line.

C. Take the water sample

- ☐ 1. Unscrew the cap; never touch the inside of the bottle or cap.
- ☐ 2. Rinse bottle with lake water twice and shake bottle out after the second rinse.
- ☐ 3. Grab the bottle around the base with all fingers and thumb of one hand (i.e., the "dead-spider" grip).
- ☐ 4. Turn bottle upside down and lower bottle about one foot below the surface.
- ☐ 5. Turn the bottle sideways to fill the bottle.
- ☐ 6. Spill out a small amount of water so bottle is ¾ full (expansion room for freezing).
- ☐ 7. Dry outside of bottle.
- ☐ 8. Store bottle in cooler with the frozen ice pack.
- ☐ 9. Repeat steps for the second water bottle.

D. Return to shore and freeze the sample

- ☐ 1. Return to shore
- ☐ 2. Put samples into a zip-lock bag.
- ☐ 3. Fold copy of data sheet, place into a different zip-lock bag to keep it dry, and then place into the first zip-lock bag with water samples.
- ☐ 4. Place samples and datasheet into the freezer.

E. Turn in your sample

- ☐ 1. Deliver your frozen phosphorus samples and data sheet to the designated turn-in location on the designated turn-in dates (according to the spring and summer phosphorus schedule). NOTE: Your phosphorus samples must be frozen when you drop them off.

Reporting Your Data

Deadline: October 31.

If you can, enter your field data (i.e., lake name, sample date, etc.) into the MiCorps Data Exchange soon after collecting your samples.

After the EGLE lab processes your sample, the sample result will be added to your field data in the Data Exchange by MiCorps staff.

If you are unable to enter your own data into the MiCorps Data Exchange, program staff will enter your data for you after receiving your datasheet with your frozen sample; however, this may cause delays in sample processing.

Questions?

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