



Sampling Wadeable Streams : Steps to Success



- **Rock-filled Mesh Bags**
- **Rock Baskets**

Standards for both baskets and bags rock material content:

Clean, washed cobble, uniform range 3.81 cm-7.62 cm

(size #2 roofing stone)

Samplers must be filled to 7.25 kg +/- .50 kg of substrate material



- The **standard sampling season:** July 1 — September 30 (late summer, low flow period)
- The **standard exposure period:** samplers exposed in the waterbody for a period of 28 days +/- 4 days



- When **deploying samplers**, approach location in a manner to minimize disturbance in or upstream of the site
- Position samplers in locations of similar habitat characteristics, usually the center half of the main channel
- Orient basket samplers with the long axis parallel to stream flow
- Provide for relocation of samplers by flagging trees in the vicinity, and/or by drawing a diagram with appropriate landmarks
- Use Maine DEP field sheet for data and notes on site



- When **retrieving samplers**, approach from downstream to avoid disturbance
- Remove excessive accumulations of macrophytes, algae, or debris clinging to the outside of the sampler, taking care to avoid jarring the sampler
- Position aquatic D-net (600 microns) immediately downstream of the sampler, and quickly lift sampler into the net



- Transfer sampler from net to 600 micron sieve bucket
- Wash down D-net contents by scooping vigorously in the stream, place all D-net washings in sieve bucket
- Empty basket or bag contents into bucket
- Carefully clean basket wires/ bag fabric, and add the pickings to the bucket
- Hand wash/inspect rocks and return to sampler



- Place each sieve bucket contents in a sample jar
- Add 95% ethyl alcohol to sample jars to preserve sample
- Samples with significant organic debris should be re-preserved in the lab with fresh 70% ethyl alcohol

For further instruction please refer to:

"Methods for Biological Sampling and Analysis of Maine's Rivers and Streams" Davies and Tsomides 2002 available at :

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docmonitoring/finlmeth1.pdf>

Handout by: Sarah Schachter

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