

Title: AOS Protocol and Procedure: Aquatic Plant, Bryophyte, Lichen and Macroalgae Sampling		Date: 02/13/2018
NEON Doc. #: NEON.DOC.003039	Author: S. Parker	Revision: C

AOS PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURE: AQUATIC PLANT, BRYOPHYTE, LICHEN AND MACROALGAE SAMPLING

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Change Record

REVISION	DATE	ECO #	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
A	01/22/2016	ECO-03470	Initial release, supersedes protocols NEON.DOC.000692 and NEON.DOC.001203. Updates to lake point selection methods and remove cover class.
B	02/08/2017	ECO-04376	Update NEON template; Clarify point transect and ashing SOPs; Update datasheets to match Fulcrum; Decrease biomass sampling to once per year; Update sample ID template
C	02/13/2018	ECO-05326	Resolving morphospecies, revise sample timing with regard to bathymetry, clarify overhanging veg in transects, move datasheets to appendix, require Wiley mill grinding for plant CN samples, update randomized point selection procedure, update D14 bout dates, limit macroalgae sample collection along transects

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1. OVERVIEW

1. Background

Aquatic plants, bryophytes, lichens, and macroalgae are primary producers common in aquatic ecosystems. They, along with algae and microbes, form the autochthonous (i.e., originating within the ecosystem) base of the food web. Additionally, aquatic plants and bryophytes add complexity to the lake or stream bottom, and, when abundant, strongly affect ecosystem structure and function (Bowden et al. 2006, Stream Bryophyte Group 1999). Aquatic plants can alter water velocity and current, take up nutrients, settle sediments, stabilize the lake or stream bottom, provide substratum for algal epiphytes, and provide shelter and food for macroinvertebrates and fish (Figure 1). High densities of aquatic plants and bryophytes can substantially increase the abundance, and influence the community structure of, local fauna (e.g., aquatic invertebrates).



Figure 1. Aquatic plants add structure and colonizable area to the lake or stream bottom.

Environmental factors such as flooding and scouring, wave activity, water level, light attenuation, and nutrient availability have strong effects on the aquatic plant community (Wetzel 2001). Light quantity and quality, water depth, wave activity, current velocity, and flow regime are the most important environmental factors affecting aquatic plants and bryophytes. Aquatic plants are typically unable to survive in habitat patches with high current velocity, as fast water may erode the substratum and break plant stems. Studies have shown that the threshold velocity that prohibits aquatic plant and bryophyte colonization in flowing water is 0.9-1.0 m s⁻¹ (Bowden et al. 2006). In lakes and rivers, aquatic plants are often limited to shallow, littoral areas in deeper lakes but may grow in deeper areas in lakes with clear water and deeper light penetration.

As a key part of the aquatic ecosystem, it is important to sample primary producers such as aquatic plants, bryophytes, lichens, and macroalgae to determine changes in community structure, invasive species extent, abundance, and biodiversity over time, as well as changes in biogeochemical cycles. Aquatic plants and macroalgae can act as indicators of changes in watershed activity by integrating the

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effects of changing nutrient loads, toxicity, and land-cover. Invasive species are an increasing threat in many aquatic environments, and are typically spread among watersheds by people. Common invasive aquatic flora across the continental U.S. include (but are not limited to) the blooms of the diatom *Didymosphenia geminata* and aquatic plants such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), and hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) (www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics, USDA 2011). By sampling primary producers, NEON data products can be used to determine whether or not invasive taxa are spreading into NEON Aquatic sites, and to investigate potential effects that invasive species have on native aquatic flora.

2. Scope

This document provides a change-controlled version of Observatory protocols and procedures. Documentation of content changes (i.e. changes in particular tasks or safety practices) will occur via this change-controlled document, not through field manuals or training materials.

1. NEON Science Requirements and Data Products

This protocol fulfills Observatory science requirements that reside in NEON’s Dynamic Object-Oriented Requirements System (DOORS). Copies of approved science requirements have been exported from DOORS and are available in NEON’s document repository, or upon request.

Execution of this protocol procures samples and/or generates raw data satisfying NEON Observatory scientific requirements. These data and samples are used to create NEON data products, and are documented in the NEON Scientific Data Products Catalog (RD[03]).

3. Acknowledgments

Protocols for point transect and quadrat sampling are based on those set forth in Bowden et al. 2006. Sampling procedures in lakes are based on the standard operation procedures of the North Temperate Lakes Long-Term Ecological Research (North Temperate Lakes LTER 2011), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR; Deppe and Lathrop 1992), the US Geological Survey (USGS) long term monitoring program (Yin et al. 2000), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) National Lake Assessment (Neuman 2008). Thanks to Dave Barnett of the NEON Terrestrial Observation System (TOS) team for assistance with plant pressing lab methods. Methods for aquatic plant preservation and pressing are based on the sampling protocols suggested by the State of Washington Department of Ecology (www.ecy.wa.gov).

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2. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND ACRONYMS

1. Applicable Documents

Applicable documents contain higher-level information that is implemented in the current document. Examples include designs, plans, or standards.

AD[01]	NEON.DOC.004300	EHSS Policy, Program and Management Plan
AD[02]	NEON.DOC.004316	Operations Field Safety and Security Plan
AD[03]	NEON.DOC.000724	Domain Chemical Hygiene Plan and Biosafety Manual
AD[04]	NEON.DOC.050005	Field Operations Job Instruction Training Plan
AD[05]	NEON.DOC.001404	NEON Science Performance QA/QC Plan

2. Reference Documents

Reference documents contain information that supports or complements the current document. Examples include related protocols, datasheets, or general-information references.

RD[01]	NEON.DOC.000008	NEON Acronym List
RD[02]	NEON.DOC.000243	NEON Glossary of Terms
RD[03]	NEON.DOC.002652	NEON Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 Data Products Catalog
RD[04]	NEON.DOC.001271	NEON Protocol and Procedure: Manual Data Transcription
RD[05]	NEON.DOC.003040	Datasheets for AOS Protocol and Procedure: Aquatic Plant, Bryophyte, Lichen, and Macroalgae Sampling
RD[06]	NEON.DOC.001646	General AQU Field Metadata Sheet
RD[07]	NEON.DOC.001152	NEON Aquatic Sample Strategy Document
RD[08]	NEON.DOC.004257	NEON Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Decontamination of Sensors, Field Equipment and Field Vehicles
RD[09]	NEON.DOC.003162	AOS Protocol and Procedure: Wadeable Stream Morphology
RD[10]	NEON.DOC.003045	AOS Protocol and Procedure: Periphyton and Phytoplankton Sampling
RD[11]	NEON.DOC.014037	TOS Protocol and Procedure: Measurement of Herbaceous Biomass
RD[12]	NEON.DOC.001574	Datasheets for TOS Protocol and Procedure: Measurement of Herbaceous Biomass
RD[13]	NEON.DOC.002494	Datasheets for AOS Sample Shipping Inventory
RD[14]	NEON.DOC.003046	AOS Protocol and Procedure: Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Sampling
RD[15]	NEON.DOC.003044	AOS Protocol and Procedure: Aquatic Microbial Sampling
RD[16]	NEON.DOC.001197	AOS Protocol and Procedure: Bathymetry and Morphology of Lakes and Non-Wadeable Streams
RD[17]	NEON.DOC.001702	NEON Herbarium Specimen Label & Annotation Generation
RD[18]	NEON.DOC.003564	NEON Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Plant Pressing and Mounting (Herbarium techniques)

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3. Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AFDM	ash-free dry mass
C	Carbon
°C	degrees Celsius
cm	Centimeter
CPOM	coarse particulate organic matter
CWD	coarse woody debris
D(#)	domain (#)
DI	deionized water
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
FPOM	fine particulate organic matter
g	grams
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global positioning system
HDPE	High-density polyethylene
hp	horsepower
HVAC	heating, ventilation and air conditioning
m	Meter
mL	Milliliter
mm	Millimeter
MOB	Man overboard
m s ⁻¹	meters per second
N	nitrogen
oz	Ounce
PFD	personal flotation device
SCUBA	Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus
SD	secure digital (flash memory card)
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

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4. Definitions

Aquatic plant: “Large” vascular plants with root system living in freshwater bodies of water. Aquatic plants will be classified based on the following life forms (Figure 2):

1. **Emergent:** Growing above the water’s surface but rooted in the sediments
2. **Floating-leaved:** Permanently submerged plants, rooted at the bottom but producing leaves that float on the water’s surface
3. **Submerged:** Plants entirely underwater
4. **Free-floating:** Not attached to substratum, leaves float on water surface

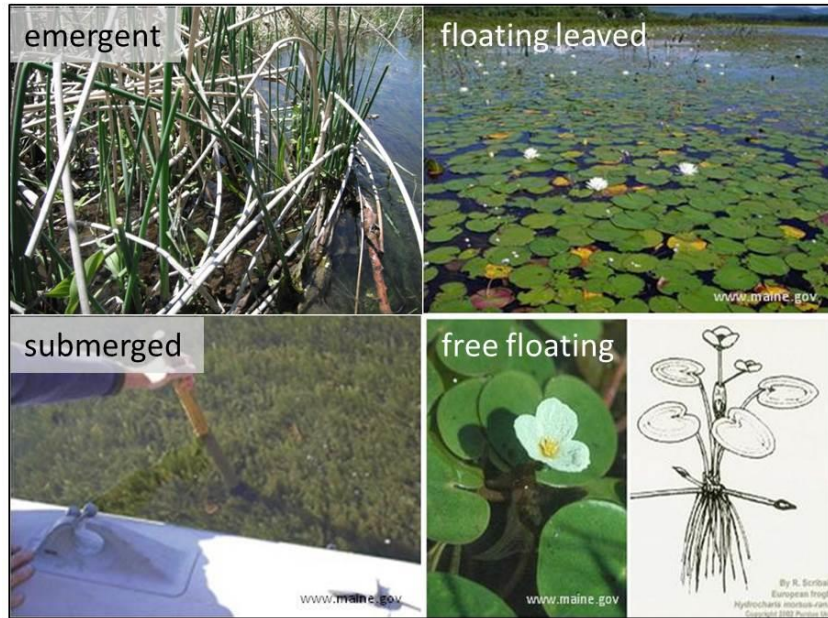


Figure 2. Aquatic plant growth forms: emergent, floating-leaved, submerged, and free-floating.

Autochthonous: Originating within the body of water where found.

Benthic zone: Area of the sediment-water interface, or bottom, of the body of water where aquatic plants are rooted.

Bryophyte: Nonvascular plant, including mosses, liverworts, and hornworts (Figure 3). May often be submerged or in the “splash zone” (annual floodplain).

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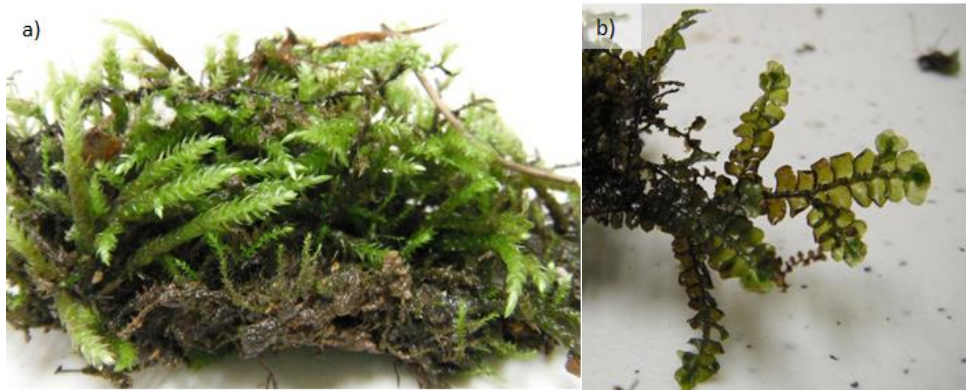


Figure 3. Bryophytes are a group of non-vascular plants including a) mosses and b) liverworts which may be submerged or growing in the “splash zone”.

Lichen: Symbiosis of an alga and a fungus, typically not submerged, but may be underwater for short periods of time during high water (Figure 4).

Limnetic zone: Zone of a lake where light does not penetrate to the bottom, typically further from shore than the littoral zone.



Figure 4. Lichens, a symbiotic relationship between fungi and algae.

Littoral: Zone of a lake where light penetrates to the bottom, allowing plant growth (typically light = 1% surface value). This zone is often near shore and relatively shallow.

Macroalgae: “Large” algae. Multicellular, photosynthetic algae visible to the naked eye. In streams, these algae are typically filamentous (Figure 5).

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Figure 5. Macroalgae are large algae that often form blooms in streams and lakes

Pool: An aquatic habitat unit in a river or stream created by local scour or impoundment and having a structural control. Pool water depth is above average, if all the running water in the stream was shut off, areas in the stream that would still hold water are pools. Pool water velocity is below average for the reach and because of that fine sediments deposit in pools. Pools are generally longer than they are wide (unless they are plunge pools), and are 1.5 x deeper at their maximum depth than they are at their crest.

Riffle: Shallow reaches flowing over rough bed material such as boulders and cobbles, creating ripples, waves, and eddies on the water surface.

Run: An aquatic habitat with swiftly flowing water but no surface water agitation, with relatively uniform flow.

Step pool: High-gradient streams (steep) where water cascades over a rock or woody snag, dropping into a pool. Due to the gradient and surrounding geology, this pattern continues down the stream: step (drop)—pool—step—pool—etc. (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Step pools occur in high-gradient streams where there are channel-spanning pools separated by boulder/cobble steps.

Thalweg: The portion of the stream channel through which the majority of the stream flow is transported. This is typically identified as the deepest portion of the flowing channel.

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3. METHOD

The goals of this protocol are: 1) to determine percent cover of aquatic plants on the **wadeable stream** bottom (percent cover in **lakes and rivers** will be estimated via the bathymetry protocol, RD[16]); 2) to collect aquatic plant, bryophyte, and macroalgae samples for identification and biomass measurement; and 3) to collect lichen specimens for identification. Plants encountered on point transects are identified *in situ* where possible using photo keys based on NEON Construction Voucher specimens and applicable regional keys. However, additional voucher specimens should be collected if the ecologist is unable to make a positive identification in the field. Voucher specimens are collected and returned to the Domain Support Facility for processing and shipping to appropriate taxonomists (see SOP F). Macroalgae specimens will always be collected and not identified in the field. Voucher specimens are sampled using grab samples near the point transects in **wadeable streams**.

To track changes in the flora of the site (e.g., arrival of invasive species or the loss of or decline of native taxa), percent cover and biomass of macroalgae, aquatic plants, and bryophytes will be calculated over time. Percent cover in **wadeable streams** is estimated using point transects, a method modified from the standard point-frame method in terrestrial ecosystems (Bowden et al. 2006). In **lakes and rivers**, samples are collected using a randomized point sampling method, which allows for data collection in many areas of the lake or river (Figure 7), rather than along select transect lines (Berg 2009). Samples are collected following the EPA National Lakes Assessment (Neuman 2008, Wisconsin DNR 2008) and USGS Long Term Resource Monitoring Program (Yin et al. 2000) where aquatic plants and macroalgae are collected from a boat using a double-sided rake. In many other monitoring programs, quantitative plant surveys and biomass removal are completed using SCUBA diver surveys (Downing and Anderson 1985). However, SCUBA surveys will not be used for NEON data collection due to logistical constraints.

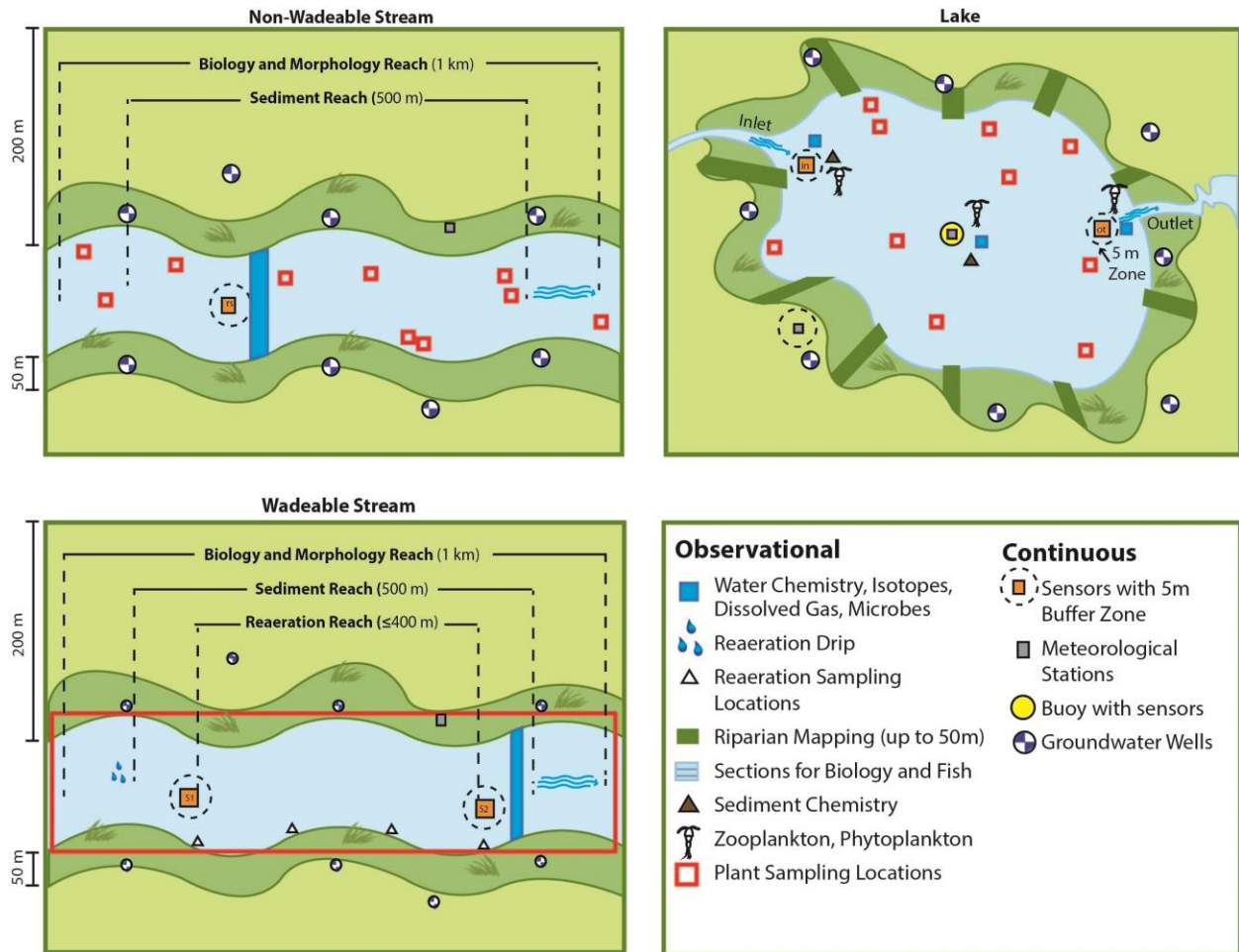


Figure 7. Generic river, lake, and wadeable stream site layouts with aquatic plant, bryophyte, lichen and macroalgae sampling locations.

Percent cover of **lakes and rivers** is estimated over time as part of the Bathymetry and Morphology for Lakes and Non-wadeable Streams Protocol (RD[16]). Data collected during echo sounder surveys are processed by a trained analyst and will show what portions of the lake or stream bottom are colonized by plants, and will be used for selecting random points. Biomass sampling will allow researchers to determine the contribution of these taxa to the aquatic habitat flora. If the percent cover of vegetation decreases dramatically (to ~5-10% of the bottom), the sampling methods may be reassessed so as not to extirpate species from the body of water.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), in Section 7 of this document, provide detailed step-by-step directions, contingency plans, sampling tips, and best practices for implementing this sampling procedure. To properly collect and process samples, field technicians **must** follow the protocol and associated SOPs. Use NEON’s problem reporting system to resolve any field issues associated with implementing this protocol.

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The value of NEON data hinges on consistent implementation of this protocol across all NEON domains, for the life of the project. It is therefore essential that field personnel carry out this protocol as outlined in this document. In the event that local conditions create uncertainty about carrying out these steps, it is critical that technicians document the problem and enter it in NEON’s problem tracking system.

Quality assurance will be performed on data collected via these procedures according to the NEON Science Performance QA/QC Plan (AD[05]).

4. SAMPLING SCHEDULE

1. Sampling Frequency and Timing

Point transects (**wadeable streams**): Benthic aquatic plant, bryophyte, lichen, and macroalgae sampling occurs three times during the growing season at each site, roughly spring, summer, and autumn.

Clip harvest/biomass sampling (**all sites**): Quadrat and rake sampling occurs once per year during the mid-season sampling date (Bout 2). In **wadeable streams**, sample collection occurs with point transect data collection.

Sampling must be scheduled to occur within the first 21 days of the 1 month window specified in APPENDIX G with a minimum of two weeks between sampling dates. Accommodations for local weather conditions (e.g., late ice-off) may be made that cause the sample date to fall outside of the pre-determined window. Use NEON’s problem reporting system to report sampling efforts that take place outside of the defined sampling window.

Echo sounder (bathymetry) surveys **of lake and river** bottoms will be performed once every five years the time of highest biological activity (sampling Bout 2). The mid-summer clip harvest collection in **lakes and rivers** should be scheduled within 2 weeks (either before or after) of the sonar survey so data can be compared, however site conditions may cause sampling to actually occur more than 2 weeks apart.

2. Criteria for Determining Onset and Cessation of Sampling

A range of dates for each site were determined *a priori*, based on historical data including ice on/ice off (for lake sites), water flow (for wadeable stream and river sites), the accumulation of degree days, weather, and riparian phenology (APPENDIX G).

3. Timing for Laboratory Processing and Analysis

All plant processing shall begin within 24-48 hours of field sampling (clip harvest only):

1. Day 1: 2-8 hours for sorting and weighing fresh samples
2. Day 2: 2-8 hours for weighing dried samples
3. Day 3: 2-3 hours for weighing ashed samples

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Dried samples may be stored between each lab processing day if necessary, days do not need to be consecutive. Samples should be shipped to the external lab or taxonomist within 30 days of sampling. For additional storage and shipping timelines see SOP F.

4. Sample Timing Contingencies

All samples from one sampling bout must be collected within one day (i.e., all samples per site as detailed in this protocol). A minimum of 2 weeks between sample periods shall be observed.

Table 1. Contingent decisions

Delay/ Situation	Action	Outcome for Data Products
Hours	If weather conditions deteriorate and conditions become unsafe (e.g., approaching thunderstorm, rapid increase of water level in the wadeable stream), or the lake/river becomes too windy ($>32 \text{ km hr}^{-1}$) and has unsafe wave heights ($>1 \text{ m}$) so that the boat cannot be held stationary over a sampling point while at anchor, return to shore and wait in a safe location for 30 minutes. If conditions improve, resume sampling, if not, return to the Domain Support Facility and sample at another time.	None as long as samples are collected within the pre-determined sampling window. If waiting for favorable conditions causes sampling to occur outside of the sampling window, data must be flagged.
	If circumstances occur that delay sampling (e.g., lightning), but sampling can be continued the same day while still meeting the streamflow or weather requirements, continue to collect samples after the delay. If conditions do not improve, discard any previously collected samples and point transect data at the site or at the Domain Support Facility and start over on the next appropriate sampling day.	None as long as samples are collected within the pre-determined sampling window. If waiting for favorable conditions causes sampling to occur outside of the sampling window, data must be flagged.
5 Days	If flooding occurs on or prior to the targeted sampling date in a wadeable stream ($>3x$ median discharge for the preceding year; Clausen and Biggs 1997) or unsafe wading conditions occur (Lane and Fay 1997), wait a minimum of 5 days after water level drops below $3x$ median discharge and is safely wadeable and macroalgae can recolonize.	None as long as samples are collected within the pre-determined sampling window. If waiting for flooding to diminish causes sampling to occur outside of the sampling window, data must be flagged.
6 Months	Preserved macroalgae samples may be held for up to 6 months at $4 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in the domain lab if	Holding samples >30 days affects external lab schedules, staffing, and budgets and delays data release on the NEON portal.

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	circumstances do not allow shipping to the external lab.	However, sample integrity is not affected and samples do not need to be flagged if held for ≤6 months.
	Dried/ground plant CN samples may be held for up to 6 months, dry, at room temperature in the domain lab if circumstances do not allow shipping to the external lab.	Holding samples >30 days affects external lab schedules, staffing, and budgets and delays data release on the NEON portal. However, sample integrity is not affected and samples do not need to be flagged if held for ≤6 months.
	Dried/pressed plant/moss/liverwort/lichen taxonomy samples may be held for up to 6 months, dry, at room temperature in the domain lab if circumstances do not allow shipping to the taxonomic facility.	Holding samples >30 days affects external lab schedules, staffing, and budgets and delays data release on the NEON portal. However, sample integrity is not affected and samples do not need to be flagged if held for ≤6 months.

5. Criteria for Permanent Reallocation of Sampling within a Site

Aquatic plant, bryophyte, lichen, and macroalgae sampling will occur on the schedule described above at 10 locations per site in two different habitat types in wadeable streams near established transect, and 10 haphazardly-chosen locations in lakes and rivers. Ideally, sampling will occur at these sampling locations for the lifetime of the Observatory (core sites) or the duration of the site’s affiliation with the NEON project (relocatable sites). However, circumstances may arise requiring that sampling within a site be shifted from one particular location to another. In general, sampling is considered to be compromised when sampling at a location becomes so limited that data quality is significantly reduced. If sampling at a given location becomes compromised, a problem ticket should be submitted by Field Operations to Science.

There are two main pathways by which sampling can be compromised. Sampling locations can become inappropriately suited to answer meaningful biological questions (e.g., a terrestrial sampling plot becomes permanently flooded or a stream channel moves after a flood). Alternatively, sampling locations may be located in areas that are logistically impossible to sample on a schedule that that is biologically meaningful.

A common occurrence in stream aquatic plant sampling is loss of habitat due to channel drying or permitting restrictions. Contingent decisions in Table 2 should be followed if the wetted area of sampling is decreased, and a problem ticket should be submitted. If water returns to the reach, full sampling should resume. Shifting of the stream channel is expected and does not necessarily compromise sampling.

Table 2. Contingent decisions for sampling in a wadeable stream.

Situation	Action	Outcome for Data Products	Considerations
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<p>Wadeable stream site with <500 m aboveground stream length due to stream size</p>	<p>If establishing transects, habitat available may be insufficient to accommodate all 10 transects/quadrats without causing harm to the stream. Reduce sampling by setting up transects/quadrats only in the dominant habitat type (5 transects/quadrats total).</p>	<p>Lower resolution for diversity metrics.</p>	<p>If the decision is made to decrease the number of samples collected for this protocol, it must also be reflected in the other wadeable stream biology protocols (RD[10], RD[14], RD[15]).</p>
<p>Wadeable stream site with seasonal drying</p>	<p>If the stream experiences seasonal drying such that established transects are completely dry during a bout, visit each transect and note that it is dry in the mobile app.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Transects should be established in locations that are typically wetted, although seasonal or atypical drying may occur.</p>
<p>The site is a small headwater wadeable stream or first/second order stream dominated by bryophytes</p>	<p>Use the small 10 cm x 10 cm quadrat</p>	<p>Lower stream coverage for biomass metrics</p>	<p>The size of the quadrat used must be clearly documented in the mobile app.</p>

6. Sampling Specific Concerns

1. If an endangered or threatened plant species is discovered (based on the Endangered Species List, APPENDIX E), **do not collect**. Take photos and note location within the site using handheld GPS. Submit a problem ticket to report findings to NEON Permitting.
 - a. Plants are more difficult to identify via photos, so accurate identification may be less certain. It will not be possible to obtain biomass data for the specimen.
2. If sampling at a small headwater stream dominated by bryophytes, use the smaller 10cm x 10cm quadrat, determined on a site-by-site basis by the site host and/or NEON Aquatic Ecologist. Quadrat size must be recorded in order to process data.
3. If sampling at a site with large amounts of plant biomass, collect biomass samples using larger containers such as trash bags, use subsampling lab procedures.

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5. SAFETY

This document identifies procedure-specific safety hazards and associated safety requirements. It does not describe general safety practices or site-specific safety practices.

Personnel working at a NEON site must be compliant with safe field work practices as outlined in the Operations Field Safety and Security Plan (AD[02]) and EHSS Policy, Program and Management Plan (AD[01]). Additional safety issues associated with this field procedure are outlined below. The Field Operations Manager and the Lead Field Ecologist have primary authority to stop work activities based on unsafe field conditions; however, all employees have the responsibility and right to stop their work in unsafe conditions.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) shall be made available for all chemicals used in this work (glutaraldehyde). Whenever chemicals are used, follow requirements of the site-specific Chemical Hygiene and Biosafety Plan (AD[03]) for laboratory safety and NEON EHSS Policy, Program and Management Plan (AD[01]).

See Section 10 in the NEON Operations Field Safety and Security Plan [AD02]). In addition, the following safety requirements are sought:

1. Activities in **wadeable streams** should only be performed when flow conditions are safe. Do not attempt to wade a stream where velocity x depth is $\geq 10 \text{ ft}^2/\text{s}$ ($0.93 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$; Lane and Fay 1997).
2. In **lakes and rivers**, site-specific hazards may be encountered that necessitate sampling from the boat, without dismounting from the vessel. In addition, use extra caution in waters where alligators are present and maintain a safe distance from hazards.
3. All personnel must be wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) prior to entering the boat.
4. All personnel shall have access to a form of communication with other team members such as a two-way radio.
5. Be aware of any site-specific hazards and to the waters of that particular location (i.e. current status, tidal charts, etc.)

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6. PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

1. Equipment

The following equipment is needed to implement the procedures in this document. Equipment lists are organized by task. They do not include standard field and laboratory supplies such as charging stations, first aid kits, drying ovens, ultra-low refrigerators, etc.

Table 3. Equipment list – General equipment

Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
Durable items							
RD[09] or RD[16]			R	Site-specific Stream Morphology or rapid habitat assessment, or Bathymetry Map	Determining sampling locations	1	N
MX111388	CDW-G	4452963	R	Mobile data entry tablet	Field data entry	1	N
MX110075 MX102739	Forestry Suppliers, Inc. Cabela's Inc. Recreational Equipment Inc.	39481 IK-270217 895022	R	Handheld GPS unit (with batteries, ±4 m accuracy) or Humminbird	Navigating to sampling locations	1	N
MX102941 MX102942	Forestry Suppliers, Inc. Grainger	53190 1GEJ1	S	Clipboard	Recording data	1	N
			R	Cooler, 9-28 quart	Storing samples	1	N

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Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
			R	Ice packs or water ice	Keeping samples cool	2	N
MX100491 MX100494 MX107505	Ben Meadows Co., Inc. Grainger, W.W. Forestry Suppliers, Inc. Cabela's		R	Waders (hip or chest) or knee boots	Boating or wading	1 pair per person	N
Consumable items							
RD[06] MX103942	Ben Meadows Co., Inc. Forestry Suppliers, Inc.	010510-1 49247	R	Aquatic Field Metadata Sheet (all-weather paper)	Recording metadata in case tablet fails	1	N
RD[05] MX103942	Ben Meadows Co., Inc. Forestry Suppliers, Inc.	010510-1 49247	R	Field datasheets (all-weather copier paper, write in pencil)	Recording data in case tablet fails	2	N
MX103942	Ben Meadows Co., Inc. Forestry Suppliers, Inc.	010510-1 49247	R	Pre-printed all-weather paper labels	Labeling aquatic plant, bryophyte, and lichen samples	10-20	N
MX100904	Amazon Capital Services Inc.	B00006IBUW	R	Pre-printed adhesive labels (all-weather, 2"x4")	Labeling macroalgae samples	20	N

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Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
			S	Adhesive barcode labels	Labeling sample bottles with barcode-readable	1 sheet	N
			R	Pencils	Recording data	2	N
MX102002	Grainger, W.W.	1JU51	R	Permanent markers	Labeling samples	2	N
			S	Extra batteries	Backup for GPS, Camera	4	N
MX103940 MX104363	Forestry Suppliers, Inc. Ben Meadows Co., Inc.	57880 223212OR	S	Flagging tape (roll) or pin flags	Flagging plant transect locations	1	N

R/S=Required/Suggested

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Table 4. Equipment list – Transect establishment in wadeable streams

Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
Durable items							
RD[09]			R	Site-specific Stream Morphology Map or rapid habitat assessment	Determining sampling locations	1	N
MX110075 MX102739	Forestry Suppliers, Inc. Cabela's Inc. Recreational Equipment Inc.	39481 IK-270217 895022	R	Handheld GPS (with batteries, ± 4 m accuracy)	Recording transect locations	1	N
			R	AOS plot markers	Permanently marking transect locations	10	N
Consumable items							
				(none)			

R/S=Required/Suggested

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Table 5. Equipment list – Sampling equipment for **wadeable streams**

Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Conditions Used	Quantity	Special Handling
Durable items								
MX106043 MX104361	Amazon Capital Services Inc. Ben Meadows Co., Inc.	B001JYXXH8 100952	R	Plastic stake (large) or chaining pin	Anchoring the transect tape	All	2	N
MX106199	McMaster-Carr Supply Co.	50065A21	R	Spring clamp	Anchoring the transect tape	All	2	N
MX104369	Ben Meadows Co., Inc. Forestry Suppliers, Inc.	213379 37184	R	Meter tape (50 m)	Transect tape	All	1	N
MX100315	West Marine Products, Inc.	2001931	S	View bucket (Plexiglas bottom)	Underwater viewing for point-transect measurements	All	1	N
MX102975	BioQuip Products Inc.	4748	S	Forceps – featherweight	Separating macroalgae from plants	All	1	N
MX100658	BioQuip Products Inc.	4533	S	Forceps – fine point	Separating macroalgae from plants	All	1	N
			R	Scissors or hand clippers	Removing aquatic plants from the biomass quadrat	All	1	N

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Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Conditions Used	Quantity	Special Handling
MX101709	Grainger, W.W.	6R335	S	Mallet	Collecting lichen specimens, use with chisel	Cobbles and boulders	1	N
MX100310	Ben Meadows Co., Inc.	162065	S	Chisel	Collecting lichen specimens, use with mallet	Cobbles and boulders	1	N
MX100313			S	Trowel	Collecting aquatic plant specimens	Soft sediments	1	N
MX106832	Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	B00H51AIYK	S	Aquarium dip net	Collecting floating plants	All	1	N
MX100304	Grainger, W.W.	20JZ18	R	Collapsible quadrat (0.5 x 0.5 m)	Biomass quadrat sampling	All	1	N
GB08900000			S	Modified quadrat (10 x 10 cm)	Biomass quadrat sampling - small headwater streams only	Headwater streams	1	N
MX107144	B&H Photo Corp	PADMCTS30BL	R	Digital camera, waterproof (with battery, memory card)	Photographing specimens	All	1	N

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Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Conditions Used	Quantity	Special Handling
			R	Field identification key (site-specific)	Identifying specimens in the field	All	1	N
Consumable items								
MX101236	Grainger, W.W.	4A807	S	Single-edged razor blades	Collecting mosses and liverworts	Cobbles and boulders	5	N
MX104787	Thomas Scientific, Inc.	1303N48	R	Whirl-pak® bags, 24 oz.	Sample container	All	30	N
MX104844	Grainger, W.W.	5LH30	R	Resealable bags (gallon)	Organizing samples, collecting large plant specimens	All	10	N
MX102717	Uline	S-5106	S	Trash bags	Collecting large biomass samples	Heavy plant cover	5	N
			R	Cable ties (6 inch), package	Attaching weight to rake	Lakes/Rivers	1	N

R/S=Required/Suggested

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Table 6. Equipment list – Sampling equipment for **lakes and rivers**

Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
Durable items							
			R	ArcMap Software	Generating random points for sampling	1	N
MX103032	Home Depot U.S.A., INC.	157369	R	Double sided thatching rake with handle	Sample collection	1	N
			R	Braided polyester line marked in 20 cm increments for rake	Sample collection	1	N
			R	Secchi disk weight (3 lb)	Weighing down rake	1	N
MX100304	Ben Meadows Co., Inc. Forestry Suppliers, Inc.	279992 53149	S	Collapsible quadrat (0.5 x 0.5 m)	Sample collection for floating plants	1	N
MX109276	Amazon Capital Services Inc.	B00X0WT8MQ	R	Depth finder	Determining depth at the sampling point	1	N
			S	Scissors	Removing aquatic plants, bryophytes and macroalgae	1	N
MX107144	B&H Photo Corp	PADMCTS30BL	R	Digital camera, waterproof (with battery, memory card)	Photographing specimens	1	N

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Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
			S	Field identification key (site specific), created over time at the domain	Identifying specimens	1	N
			S	Tray, tub, or 5 gallon bucket	Sorting samples in the field	1	N
Consumable items							
MX109154 MX100686 MX104787	Fisher Scientific Company Thomas Scientific, Inc. Thomas Scientific, Inc.	14955175 1303N23 1303N48	R	Whirl-pak® bags, various sizes	Sample container for smaller samples	30	N
MX104844	Grainger, W.W.	5LH30	R	Resealable zip-top bags (gallon)	Sample container for larger samples	10	N

R/S=Required/Suggested

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Table 7. Equipment list – Laboratory processing: Ash-free dry mass

Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
Durable items							
MX111388	CDW-G	4452963	R	Mobile data entry tablet or desktop app	Domain data entry	1	N
MX100338	BioQuip Products Inc. Fisher Scientific Company	1426B NC0095946	R	Plastic larval tray	Measuring dry weight of large specimens	1	N
			S	Large tray or Tupperware container	Floating plant material to separate taxa and macroalgae	1-3	N
MX100689	Fisher Scientific Company, LLC	8732115	S	Weigh boats (plastic, large)	Measuring dry weight of small specimens	20	N
MX108050 or MX106267	Fisher Scientific Company, LLC Thomas Scientific, Inc.	8732100 1209Q58	R	Weigh boats (aluminum)	AFDM sample processing	20	N
			R	Sieve, 1 mm mesh	Rinsing sample to remove sediment and debris	1	N
			R	Soft brush	Cleaning aluminum weigh boats	1	N

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Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
MX100264	Fisher Scientific Company, LLC	1910200	R	Analytical balance (0.0001 g precision)	Measuring weight	1	N
MX100700	Fisher Scientific Company, LLC	1055423	R	Muffle furnace	Burning organic material for ash-free dry mass calculation	1	N
MX106684	Grainger, W.W. Fisher Scientific Company, LLC Thomas Scientific, Inc.	5ZPT8 15207 0241B17	R	Crucible tongs	Safe handling of equipment in the muffle furnace	1	N
MX105207	Grainger, W.W.	2EWX3	R	Thermal gloves	Safe handling of equipment in the muffle furnace	1 pair	N
MX108046	Amazon Capital Services Inc.	B000OSNQXQ	S	Aluminum baking pan	Sample organization in muffle furnace	2	N
MX105898	Fisher Scientific Company, LLC	0864223B	R	Desiccator (bench top)	Storing dried samples	1	N
Consumable items							
MX111227	Fisher Scientific Company, LLC	075783A	R	Desiccant packs	For bench top desiccator	1-2	N
			R	Lab datasheets	Recording data if tablet fails	1	N

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Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
MX106814	Grainger, W.W.	12R027	R	Paper lunch bags	Drying samples in the drying oven	10	N
MX100642	Thomas Scientific, Inc.	1234Z63	R	Laboratory tissues (box)	Blotting small specimens	1	N
			R	Paper towels	Blotting large specimens	1	N
MX100589	Grainger, W.W.	6CHG5	S	Aluminum foil	Separating aluminum weigh boats in muffle furnace	1 roll	N
MX106351	Thomas Scientific, Inc.	2701B04	R	Borosilicate glass vials, PTFE-lined cap, 4 mL	Sample container for CN subsamples	20	N

R/S=Required/Suggested

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Table 8. Equipment list – Laboratory processing: Aquatic plant pressing and mounting (RD[18])

Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
Durable items							
MX100316	Forestry Suppliers, Inc. BioQuip Products Inc	53674 3115	R	Standard plant press	Pressing plants	1	N
MX103214	Forestry Suppliers, Inc. BioQuip Products Inc	53741 3127	R	Cardboard ventilators	Pressing plants	24	N
MX100312	Forestry Suppliers, Inc. Herbarium Supply	53740 223	R	Standard driers (sheets)	Pressing plants	24	N
MX100387	Fisher Scientific Company	975350	S	Forceps (blunt point)	Handling specimens	1	N
MX107144	B&H Photo Corp	PADMCTS30BL	S	Handheld digital camera, battery, and memory card	Photographing specimens	1	N
Consumable items							
MX100680	Herbarium Supply	101	R	Herbarium mounting paper	Herbarium mounting	1 package	N
MX100679	Herbarium Supply	120	R	Herbarium mounting glue, bottle	Herbarium mounting	1	N
			R	Newspaper	Pressing plants	12 sheets	N

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Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
MX103942	Ben Meadows Co., Inc. Forestry Suppliers, Inc.	010510-1 49247	R	All-weather copier paper, 8 1/2" x 11"	Labelling plants in plant press	15 sheets	N
MX103215	Herbarium Supply	115	R	Seed envelopes (3.23" x 4.50")	Storing small plant parts	10	N
MX103217	Herbarium Supply	353	R	Herbarium labels, paper	Labeling herbarium mounts	10	N

R/S=Required/Suggested

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Table 9. Equipment list – Laboratory processing: Macroalgae preservation

Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
Durable items							
				(none)			
Consumable items							
MX107765	Sigma-Aldrich, Inc.	G62571L	R	Preservative (glutaraldehyde)	Preserving macroalgae samples	1 L	Y
MX101218	Fisher Scientific Company, LLC	03-313-15B	R	60 mL widemouth HDPE polypropylene sample bottle with cap	Shipping macroalgae samples	10	N

R/S=Required/Suggested

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Table 10. Equipment list – Shipping Supplies

Item No.	Supplier	Supplier ID	R/S	Description	Purpose	Quantity	Special Handling
Durable items							
				(none)			
Consumable items							
MX104844	Grainger, W.W.	5LH30	S	Zip-top bags, gallon	Store samples in bags in vermiculite	TBD	N
MX109205	Grainger, W.W.	30RD13	R	Vermiculite, Grade 2	Absorbing liquid leaks and cushioning shipment	TBD	N
MX109204	Global Equipment Company Uline	B68603 S-4485	S	Cardboard box (~9"x7"x7")	Shipping taxonomy samples	1	N
			R	Bubble wrap	Padding taxonomy and CN samples	TBD	N
RD[13]			R	Shipping inventory	Provides sample information to external lab	1	N

R/S=Required/Suggested

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2. Training Requirements

Field staff must complete protocol-specific training for safety and implementation of this protocol as required in Field Operations Job Instruction Training Plan (AD[04]).

All personnel required to operate a boat shall be trained through an approved program. All others shall be aware of boating safety procedures.

Personnel will be trained in the field protocols associated with this document, and trained in safe working practices for aquatic-based field work. Personnel must also be trained in field identification based on the local stream flora and in safe handling of glutaraldehyde (AD[03]).

3. Specialized Skills

Where applicable, personnel will be trained to operate a boat and able to safely handle a motor and drive a boat safely.

4. Estimated Time

The time required to implement a protocol will vary depending on a number of factors, such as skill level, system diversity, environmental conditions, and distance between sample plots. The timeframe provided below is an estimate based on completion of a task by a skilled two-person team (i.e., not the time it takes at the beginning of the field season). Use this estimate as a framework for assessing progress. If a task is taking significantly longer than the estimated time, a problem ticket should be submitted. Please note that if sampling at particular locations requires significantly more time than expected, Science may propose to move these sampling locations.

Field sampling requires 2 ecologist for 3-8 hours per site, plus travel to and from the site. Lab processing requires 1-2 ecologists for 2-8 hours within 48 hours of field sampling, 1 ecologist for 2-8 hours on the second lab day, and 1 ecologist for 2-3 hours on the third lab day.

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7. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SOP A Preparing for Sampling

A.1 Preparing for Data Capture

Mobile applications are the preferred mechanism for data entry. Mobile devices should be fully charged and synced at the beginning of each field day, whenever possible.

However, given the potential for mobile devices to fail under field conditions, it is imperative that paper datasheets are always available to record data. Paper datasheets should be carried along with the mobile devices to sampling locations at all times.

A.2 Aquatic Plant, Bryophyte, Lichen, and Macroalgae Field Sampling

1. Collect and prepare all equipment, including sample bottles, sample bags, and pre-printed labels.
2. Load GPS sampling coordinates on handheld GPS unit (± 4 m accuracy), SOP B for lakes/rivers.
3. Print labels on all-weather paper (Figure 8).
 - a. Note that plant biomass collection only occurs during Bout 2, however macroalgae may be collected during any bout for taxonomic identification.

<p>NEON</p> <p>Sample ID: <u>ARIK.20161212.quadrat.Q1</u></p> <p>Transect/Quadrat/Point ID: <u>Q1</u></p> <p>Species ID: <u>-----</u></p> <p>Collected by: <u>spark</u></p>	<p>NEON</p> <p>Sample ID: <u>CRAM.20161212.rake.P1</u></p> <p>Transect/Quadrat/Point ID: <u>P1</u></p> <p>Species ID: <u>-----</u></p> <p>Collected by: <u>jstewart</u></p>
<p>NEON</p> <p>Sample ID: <u>ARIK.20161212.quadrat.Q2</u></p> <p>Transect/Quadrat/Point ID: <u>Q2</u></p> <p>Species ID: <u>-----</u></p> <p>Collected by: <u>spark</u></p>	<p>NEON</p> <p>Sample ID: <u>CRAM.20161212.rake.P3</u></p> <p>Transect/Quadrat/Point ID: <u>P3</u></p> <p>Species ID: <u>-----</u></p> <p>Collected by: <u>jstewart</u></p>

Figure 8. Example of all-weather field labels for bulk aquatic plant and macroalgae sample collection.

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4. When the system is available, adhesive barcode labels will be added to the sample containers and scanned by the mobile app (Figure 9). Add adhesive labels to macroalgae bottles or sample bags prior to going in the field and getting the bottle/bag wet.
 - a. Keep a physical human-readable label (Figure 8) on each bottle/bag with a minimum of the sample ID printed to assist with organization and shipping.

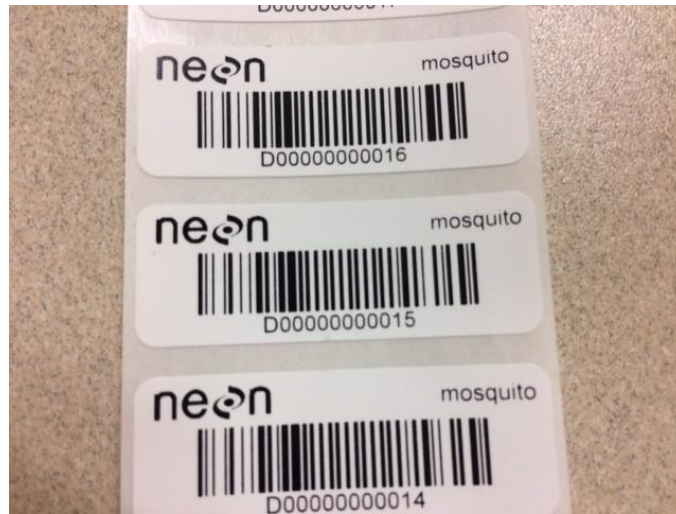


Figure 9. Example of adhesive barcode labels.

5. Sample IDs will be generated by the mobile app as follows (Table 11). Sample IDs written on the physical human-readable label must match the sample ID generated by the mobile app.

Table 11. Examples of field sample IDs generated by the mobile app.

Sampler type	Site type	Field app populates as:	Example Field Sample ID
Rake	Lake, River	rake	CRAM.20161027.rake.1
Benthic Quadrat	Stream, Lake, River	quadrat	MAYF.20161027.quadrat.1
Floating Quadrat	Lake	quadrat	SUGG.20161027.quadrat.1
Mini Quadrat	Stream	mini	MAYF.20161027.mini.1

6. Have ice or ice packs frozen and ready for transportation cooler.
7. Charge batteries for digital camera and check batteries (bring extras) for handheld GPS unit.
8. See Laboratory Preparation procedures in Section D.1 for additional pre-sampling activities (e.g., weigh boat preparation).
9. Fill out general aquatic field metadata app on the tablet or datasheet (RD[06]) if tablet not available upon every field sampling visit. General field metadata only need to be filled out once per site per day, even if multiple protocols are implemented.

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SOP B Determining Sampling Locations

B.1 Lakes and Rivers – Randomized Point Selection

1. Using the most recent perimeter from the bathymetric map of the lake/river received from NEON HQ (it may be from a prior summer; RD[16]) determine the colonizable depth based on existing aquatic plant cover. If available, use the habitat map from the NEON data portal generated as part of the bathymetry data product to determine where plants colonize. Generate a polygon using GIS software of the portions of the lake/river bottom that are equal to or shallower than this depth (Figure 10).
 - a. This represents areas of potential plant growth, not necessarily where plants are known to be rooted.
 - b. At sites where plants are floating, include all areas of lake where plants are floating regardless of depth.
 - c. If the plant cover map is not available, estimate maximum depth of plant colonization using the transect method (USEPA 2011) in Step 2.
 - d. Lakes where the perimeter cannot be determined from the bathymetry protocol (i.e., D03 Suggs) may use a perimeter determined from AOP data or aerial photos (e.g. Google Earth).
 - e. The ArcGIS ArcMap software is available through the Citrix Receiver using the XD GIS-NoGPU virtual desktop. Contact IT helpdesk if this is not available for your Citrix Receiver profile
2. **Plant colonization depth transects: perform this step prior to sampling if the plant cover bathymetric map is not available.** In the field, choose a transect location in an area where you are reasonably sure that plants are growing. Avoid placing the transect at the boat ramp. Re-check the plant colonizable depth once per year during Bout 2 sampling. NOTE: Keep in mind that water levels/depth may vary throughout the year.
 - a. Run the transect perpendicular from a point chosen on the shoreline toward the buoy location.
 - b. Ideally, at least 6 points along the transect should be sampled.
 - c. If the lake is ≤ 4.0 m deep, collect rake grab samples at the following points:
 - i. 0.5 m depth (± 0.2 m), 1.0 m, 1.5 m, 2.0 m, 2.5 m, 3.0 m or until you reach one of the stop criteria below:
 - d. If the lake is > 4.0 m deep, collect rake grab samples at the following points:
 - i. 0.5 m depth (± 0.2 m), 1.0, 2.0, continue sampling at each meter depth until you reach one of the STOP sampling criteria:
 - a. STOP if you have samples two points in a row with 0 plants/macroalgae on the rake
 - b. STOP if you reach the buoy location.
 - e. The last point with plant/macroalgal material on the rake is the estimated maximum sampling depth of plant colonization. Be sure that this depth makes sense given the lake/river you are sampling. If you reach the buoy location with plant material on each rake grab, consider maximum plant depth to be the same as the maximum lake depth.
 - f. If it seems that the transect is not representative of plant cover and plant colonization depth at the lake, perform an additional transect targeting an area where plants are known to be present to determine plant colonization depth.

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3. Create 20 random coordinates within the defined polygon of potential plant colonization using the “Create Random Points” function in ArcMap. If the plant cover bathymetry maps are not available, create 40 random points within the wetted perimeter of the lake, and throw out points below the maximum plant colonization depth (as determined in Step 2).
 - a. Ensure that you have received the polygon (shp file) for your site from GIS at headquarters. This will be created from perimeter mapping in the bathymetry protocol.
 - b. Open ArcMap
 - c. Open ArcCatalog to Connect to Folder where your polygon is located
 - d. Click “Connect to Folder” icon and point to folder where your lake/river outline shapefile is located. Use the most recent polygon available. After selecting, click “OK”.
 - e. In ArcMap, expand the folder you just connected to using the “+” icon. Drag your polygon into the blank map. You should now see the water layer in your map.
 - f. Go to ArcToolbox
 - g. Select ‘Data Management Tools’ > ‘Feature Class’ > ‘Create random points’ OR select the “AOS_randomPointModel” tool if available
 - h. Specify output location in pop up window and name Output Point Feature Class
 - i. ‘Constraining feature class’: choose the polygon you are working with (e.g., “Lake Polygon”)
 - ii. Number of points = 20 (or ≥ 40)
 - iii. Select ‘decimal degrees’ if option is available
 - iv. Name the output feature
 - v. Choose the location where the output file will be exported. Add the “.xls” extension.
 - vi. Click ‘ok’
 - vii. Random points now appear on your polygon
 - a. If points do not appear:
 - (1) Check your feature name, change to something more simple with no characters
 - (2) Click the error message (if present, at bottom right of screen) to see where the error has occurred
 - (3) Submit a Problem ticket and assign to NEON GIS specialist for help
 - i. Go to ‘Data Management Tools’ > ‘Features’ > ‘Add XY Coordinates’
 - i. ‘Input feature’: choose the shapefile of random points layer you just created
 - ii. Click ‘ok’ (nothing happens on the map)
 - j. Label the random points, 1-20 (or ≥ 40)
 - i. Right click the random points layer and select “Properties”. Select the “Labels” tab.
 - ii. Select the box “Label Features in this Layer”
 - iii. Select the label field “OID” in the drop down menu and click “Apply”.
 - k. To export attribute table: go to ‘ArcToolbox’ > ‘Conversion Tools’ > ‘Excel’ > ‘Table to Excel’
 - i. Specify attribute table and where you want the output file to be saved
 - ii. Print a copy of random points coordinates to take in the field or load into GPS unit.
 - l. Export your map and print

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- i. Center your map in the ArcMap window
- ii. Use File-> Export to JPG, save map and print – Do not print directly from ArcMap as it will freeze
- m. If you have many points....
 - i. Right click your random points layer in ArcGIS
 - ii. Select “Open Attribute Table”
 - iii. Select the row on the table to highlight the point on the map as you go through
4. Only 10 of the random coordinates will be sampled, starting at the beginning of the list. However, if conditions (bottom substrate, location is dry, depth, etc.) are not conducive to sampling at a given coordinate, you may move on to the next coordinate on the list. Record both the coordinate sampled and the coordinate uncertainty (i.e., the larger of 1) the uncertainty reported on the GPS unit or 2) how far you are away from your intended point) on the field data sheet.
 - a. If substrata and depth are appropriate for sampling and plant cover is 0, the point is still a valid sampling location.
 - b. If the lake contains thick floating vegetation maps such that you are unable to maneuver a boat to the sampling point (i.e. D03 Suggs Lake), get the boat as close as possible and record the target coordinate as well as the coordinate uncertainty (distance you are from that point when sampling).
 - c. Do not sample at depths greater than the maximum depth of plant colonization as determined above or on the plant cover bathymetry map.
 - d. Do not sample within a 5 m radius of the aquatic instrumentation.

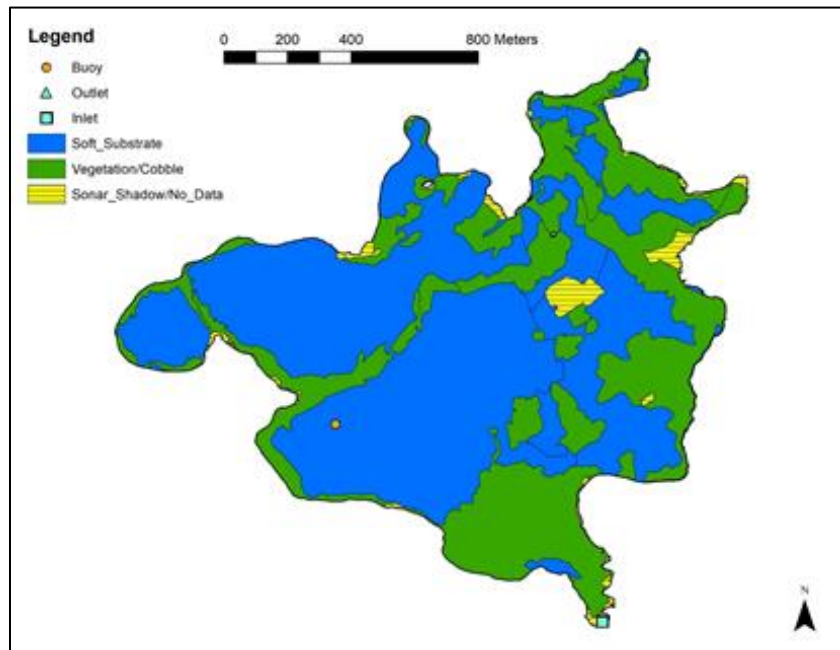



Figure 10. Bathymetric map of Toolik Lake (D18) showing habitat patches of vegetation, cobble, and soft substrates. (Figure courtesy of Spencer Phillips)

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B.2 Wadeable Streams – Transect Establishment

1. Establish transects on the initial sampling bout at the site, or if stream geomorphology has changed necessitating moving a previously established transect(s).
2. Determine percent cover of habitat types throughout the sampling reach using the Stream Morphology Map (RD[09]) or rapid habitat assessment.
 - a. The habitat type(s) chosen should be present during all sampling bouts.
 - b. The habitat type(s) chosen should account for >20% of the area of the reach (RD[09])
 - c. Transects must remain in the same location on each sampling bout, even if flow conditions cause the habitat types to change. Transects should not be moved unless a transect is no longer in the stream channel.
 - i. Reasons for relocating a transect include a change in the stream morphology such that the channel no longer flows through the transect.
 - ii. If the stream is dewatered such that a transect is dry at the time of collection, record as 'Location dry' for "Sampling Impractical" in the mobile app.
 - d. Habitats chosen should be the types as those chosen for RD[10], RD[14], and RD[15].
 - e. Targeted habitat types (see Definitions, Section 4)
 - i. Riffle
 - ii. Run
 - iii. Pool (only sample pools that can be waded safely)
 - iv. Step pool
3. Place 5 transects in each habitat type. If only one habitat is present that accounts for >20% of the reach, place all 10 transects within that habitat type.
 - a. Alternate sampling transects between different types of habitat along the reach if possible (Figure 11).
 - i. If it is not possible to separate each transect by a different habitat, transects should be located a minimum of 10 m apart.
 -  b. Take care not to place transects in locations where you or others have been walking in the stream or are obvious crossing areas for wildlife (e.g., beavers, cows). Transects should not be located within 5 m of the aquatic sensor sets or discharge transect location due to heavy foot traffic in those areas.

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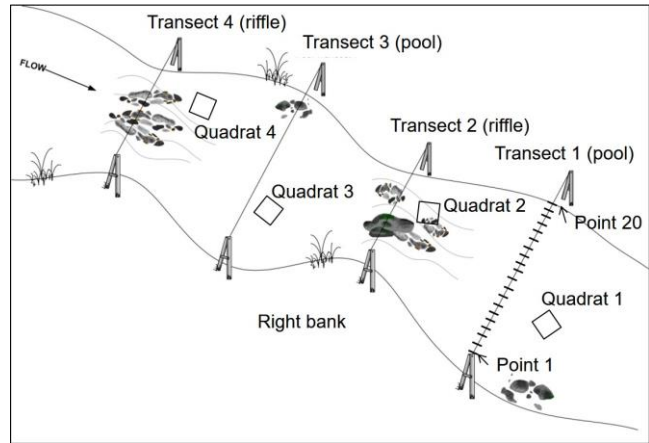


Figure 11. Layout of riffle and pool transects and quadrats within the stream reach

4. Start with the most downstream location and work upstream to avoid suspending sediments that will affect your sampling area.
5. Transects should be spread throughout the 1000m sampling reach as evenly as possible.
6. Choose transect locations approximately in the center of the habitat unit, leaving space downstream for quadrat sampling. Place a plot marker on the right bank or left bank (keep the bank consistent throughout all transects for consistency).
 - a. Avoid placing transects across islands or braids in the stream channel.
7. Record the coordinate at the plot marker location or transect end point as well as the coordinate uncertainty using the Trimble data dictionary for AOS locations. If the Trimble is not available at the time of transect selection, record on the Transect Establishment datasheet (APPENDIX I, RD[05]) and return at a later date to record locations using the Trimble.
 - a. Plot marker coordinates will be surveyed the next time data are collected for the stream geomorphology protocol (RD[09]).

SOP C Field Sampling

Do not collect known rare, threatened, or endangered species. If specimens are accidentally collected, follow permitting regulations for the specific site.

C.1 Randomized Point Sampling (Rake) in Lakes and Rivers (clip harvest)

1. Collect samples at 10 points.
 - a. Three rake tows equal 1 composite sample at each point.
2. Navigate to the pre-determined sampling point on the lake/river using the handheld GPS unit.
 - a. Due to error associated with the GPS unit and error associated with holding the boat over an exact waypoint, sample within 2 m of the pre-determined sampling.

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- b. If you are unable to sample at this point due to natural bed conditions (e.g., bedrock, large boulders), anchors, the location is dry, or is too close (within 5 m) or aquatic instrumentation, continue to the next point on the list.
- c. Record the coordinates of the sampling location and the coordinate uncertainty in the mobile app.
3. Anchor the boat at the bow and stern to keep the boat in the desired location. Get as close to the desired sampling coordinate as possible, however there will be error associated with anchoring and allowing the boat to drift. Include an estimate of offset in the coordinate uncertainty.
 - a. Coordinate uncertainty is the larger of 1) the uncertainty reported on the GPS unit or 2) how far you are away from your intended point.
4. Determine depth at the sampling point using the depth-finder and record in the mobile app (Figure 15).
 - a. If the depth is <1 m, use the rake with a handle (Figure 12a).
 - b. If the depth is >1 m, use the rake with a rope and weight attached (Figure 12b).

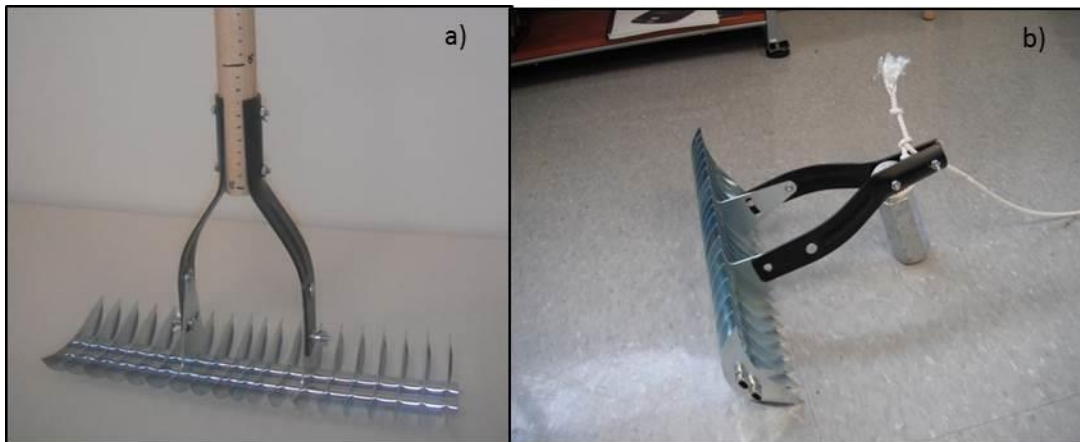


Figure 12. Double-sided sampling rake: a) Rake with handle b) Rake with rope and weight

5. If plants are rooted, use the rake. If plants are floating, put out the 0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat and collect all floating plant material within the quadrat, then proceed to Step 10c.
 - a. NOTE: If the vegetation is too firmly rooted to be sampled with the rake (e.g., cattails or rushes), follow procedure for biomass quadrat sampling as done in wadeable streams (SOP C.1).
 - b. For floating plants, include roots as aboveground biomass.
 - c. 3 rake tows will be composited per sample. 1 quadrat will be used per sample.
6. Lower the rake head to the lake/river bottom by casting away from or dragging alongside the boat.
7. Pull the rake along the lake/river bottom, toward the boat, for approximately 1.5 m.
 - a. This can be measured by leaving 1.5 m of extra rope above the water surface, and pulling that in toward the boat or marking 1.5 m on the gunwale of the boat and towing that distance.
8. Twist rake 180 degrees as you begin to lift it toward the boat. Twisting minimizes the loss of plants from the rake, but twisting more than 180° may cause plants to fall off.

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9. Pull the rake and plants into the boat (Figure 13).



a. NOTE: Do not rinse plants or algae in the lake or river to prevent sample loss.



Figure 13. Double-sided rake head with plant sample being brought into the boat.

10. Remove all plants or algae from rake and place in labeled Whirl-pak® or gallon resealable bags.



- a. Hold the rake over a 3 or 5 gallon bucket to prevent sample loss.
- b. Take care when removing plants as the rake tines are very sharp.
- c. Samples may be separated by taxa in the field (this may be easier to do now than in the lab) or lumped into a composite sample and separated in the lab.
 - i. If separating by species in the field, place each species in a separate sample bag with an individual label that includes that taxon ID or morphospecies ID. Record in the mobile app, along with dominant growth form of the rake (i.e., emergent, floating-leaved, submerged, or free-floating). Do not spend more than 10 minutes per tow separating species in the field.
 - ii. If lumping the sample in the field, assign a field sample ID (*SITE.DATE.samplerType.pointID*) and replace “rake” in the ID with the taxon/species ID in the lab. Sampler type may be “rake” or “quadrat”.
- d. Place contents of all 3 tows (either by taxa or lumped sample) in the same sample bags to form a composite sample.
- e. Record data in the mobile app.
 - i. If available, scan the barcode label with the tablet (Figure 14).
 - ii. Ensure that the human-readable sample ID matches the sample ID generated by the mobile app. See SOP C.4 for additional labelling and storage instructions.
- f. Any senesced material collected can be separated from this year’s growth in the lab and binned for biomass analysis. Correct identification of senesced material is difficult and unnecessary for this analysis.

11. Repeat steps above until three tows have been completed at each point. Each of the three tows should sample different strips of the lake bottom. For example, use the left side, right side, and front of boat.

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C.2 Biomass Quadrats in Wadeable Streams (clip harvest)

Biomass sampling (clip harvest) is inherently destructive; therefore, biomass sampling at sites takes place near, but not directly on, the point transects. A location for biomass sampling is haphazardly selected 1-4 m downstream (see below for details) of each set of point transects so as not to disturb the aquatic plants growing along the point transect. Quadrats are 0.5 m per side (0.25 m²). Small holes may be drilled in the PVC to allow for the quadrat to sink in the water. In small headwater streams, a modified 10 cm x 10 cm quadrat may be used so as to minimize destruction to the bryophyte community. This decision will be made by the site host and aquatic ecologists at NEON HQ.



NOTE: Quadrats are not heavy enough to settle to the stream bottom in areas of fast water (e.g., riffles). Step on the sides of the quadrat to hold it in place or use a second person to assist in holding the quadrat when sampling these areas.

1. Start at the most-downstream point transect and work upstream to minimize suspended sediments in the stream.
2. Haphazardly choose a location for the quadrat.
 - a. Stay within the same habitat unit (e.g., within the same riffle) as the point transect.
 - b. Toss the quadrat into the channel downstream of the transect, a minimum of 2 m and a maximum of 4 m downstream from the point transect.
 - i. If the site has habitat units that are <4 m long, this requirement may be changed to 1-3 m from the transect.
 - c. Ensure that the quadrat location is completely underwater and appears to be underwater at baseflow. If the initial placement of the quadrat is not underwater, shift it to the nearest location that meets this requirement.
 - i. If the stream is small, keeping the quadrat underwater may require using the smaller 10 cm x 10 cm quadrat at some sites. This quadrat size may also be required by permitting.
 - ii. Do not place quadrat on an island populated with terrestrial plants.
 - iii. This protocol is designed to capture the underwater community, thus this method may result in 0 plants being in the quadrat even though more plant or moss material may be present on the dry substrata in the channel.
3. Remove all aquatic plants, bryophytes, and macroalgae from the quadrat by species (do not remove lichens as they grow more slowly and may not replace themselves – ID *in situ* based on field identification key).
 - a. If the habitat unit is dry, enter “Location Dry” in **Sampling Impractical** in the mobile app and move on to the next quadrat.
 - b. If no plants are present in the quadrat, enter “N” in **Target taxa present** and move on to the next quadrat.

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- c. For rooted plants, collect only those that are rooted in the quadrat and collect the entire plant even if it hangs outside the quadrat. Do not collect plants rooted outside the quadrat, even if they overhang the quadrat.
- d. For free floating plants, collect any that are directly above the quadrat
- e. Clip plants at the sediment-water interface for above-ground biomass. Floating plants may be scooped using an aquarium dip net or hands. Mosses and liverworts are most easily removed using a single-edged razor blade.
- f. Only collect material that represents this year’s growth (i.e., not senesced vegetation that is clearly from the previous year).
- g. If the entire quadrat cannot fit underwater, collect both the above-water and underwater specimens and keep them **separate**.
- h. Only remove macroalgae if they form filaments (Figure 5) that can be easily sampled by hand. Some algae form amorphous clouds near the substrate that are difficult to pick up, these will be sampled in the periphyton protocol (RD[10]).



- 4. Wash sample gently in stream water to remove excess sediments (this saves cleaning time in the lab). Take extra care when rinsing algae to not lose the sample material.
- 5. Place each species in a separate Whirl-pak® or gallon resealable bag. This makes sorting back in the lab easier.
 - a. If there is too much material for one bag, split the sample over two or more bags and make appropriate labels with “#1 of 2” and “#2 of 2” etc. on the labels.
 - b. Record data in the mobile app.
 - i. If available, scan the barcode label with the tablet (Figure 14).
 - ii. Ensure that the human-readable sample ID matches the sample ID generated by the mobile app. See SOP C.4 for additional labelling and storage instructions.

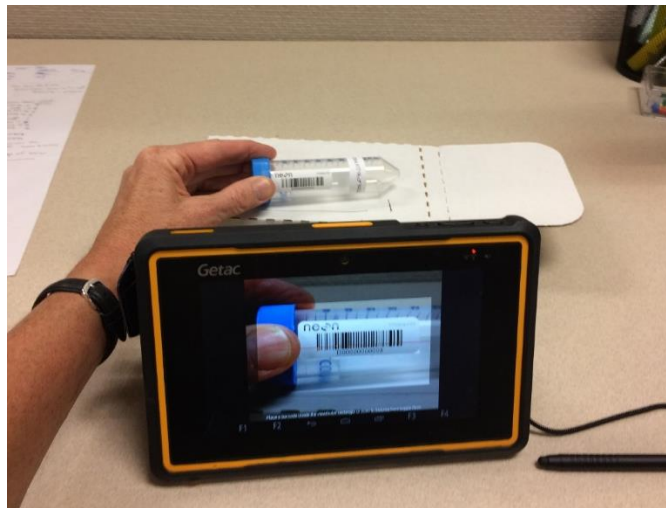


Figure 14. Barcode label scanning.

- 6. Proceed to sample labeling and storage in SOP C.4.

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C.3 Point-Transects in Wadeable Streams

1. Use the pre-recorded plot markers and coordinates (APPENDIX I) to locate each transect.
2. Place a plastic tent stake or chaining pin at each end of the transect. String the meter tape from the right bank to the left bank. Fasten the tape to the stakes with spring clamps.
 - a. For consistency, always place the zero end of the meter tape on the right bank.
 - b. The tape should be perpendicular to thalweg.
3. If the entire transect is dry (i.e., the habitat unit is dry), enter “Location dry” in **Sampling Impractical** in the mobile app and move on to the next transect.
4. Sampling points should be evenly spaced in 10 cm (minimum) to 50 cm (maximum) intervals across the wetted portion of the transect, depending on the size of the stream. The goal is to have ≥ 20 sampling points within the wetted channel across each transect.
 - a. If the wetted width of the stream is < 2 m, sampling points should be spaced 10 cm apart.
 - b. For streams > 2 m wide, points should be spaced at intervals approximately equaling the stream transect width divided by 21, so that 1 point may fall on the bank with 20 points in the water.
 - c. Maximum distance between sampling points is 50 cm.
5. Use the view bucket to see the stream bottom at each sampling point along the transect. Line up the reference point on the bottom of the view bucket with the sampling point on the meter tape (Figure 15).
 - a. Survey points in the wetted channel only.
 - b. Set the bottom of the view bucket (if using) on the surface of the water, then push slightly below the water. This will allow you to see underwater through the bottom of the bucket.
 - c. If the clear bottom of the view bucket is difficult to see through, rinsing or leaving a thin layer of water in the bottom of the bucket may aid in viewing.
 - d. Record all vegetation or substratum type (if no vegetation present) under each point.
 - i. If no aquatic plants are present, enter “N” in **Target taxa present** on field data sheet and move on to the next point.
 - ii. If aquatic plants are present, enter “Y” in **Target taxa present** on field data sheet fill in the remaining information in Step 6.
 - iii. If multiple layers of vegetation lie underwater below the point, record all vegetation layers.
 - iv. If overhanging riparian vegetation is below the sampling point, record as “Target Taxa Present” = No because it is not an aquatic plant, then select substrate = other and describe the vegetation in the remarks field.
 - v. If an object, such as large woody debris, has entered the transect temporarily such that there is water below, record the conditions in the water below the object.
 - vi. If transient leaf litter (e.g., during autumn sampling bouts) has fallen into the stream, record then move out of the way so you can see what rooted plants lie on the stream bottom.

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Figure 15. a) Hold the view bucket in the water, under the meter tape transect. b) Hold the view bucket so that the reference point lines up with the point you want to sample on the meter tape.

6. Record the all vegetation and its growth form (see Definitions Section 4), organic matter, or substrate that lies directly below the reference point at each location across the transect in the mobile app or Point Transect Field Datasheet (APPENDIX I, RD[05]). If the specimen can be identified in the field, record the taxon ID (species or 4 letter USDA code). Categories include:
 - a. Target taxa:
 - i. **Aquatic plant** – Use the field key to identify to species if possible, or collect 2 voucher specimens off-transect (Figure 2) and record morphospecies ID.
 - ii. **Moss** – Use the field key to identify to species if possible, or collect a voucher specimen and record morphospecies ID. A small voucher may be collected from the transect if you are concerned about identified a voucher elsewhere. Limit collection to 1 bout if possible so you do not deplete the colony.
 - iii. **Liverwort** – Use the field key to identify to species if possible, or collect a voucher specimen and record morphospecies ID. A small voucher may be collected from the transect if you are concerned about identified a voucher elsewhere. Limit collection to 1 bout if possible so you do not deplete the colony.
 - iv. **Lichen** – Use the field key to identify to species if possible, collect a voucher specimen and record morphospecies ID. A small voucher may be collected from the transect if you are concerned about identified a voucher elsewhere. Limit collection to 1 bout if possible so you do not deplete the colony.
 - v. **Macroalgae** – Collect samples or filamentous algae for identification at the external lab, see Step 7 below (Figure 5).
 - b. Substrate (record only if target taxa are not present):
 - i. **Coarse woody debris** – (CWD) large pieces of wood, sticks.
 - ii. **Dry** – point is not underwater at the time of sampling, even if plants or bryophytes are present.

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- iii. **Fine particulate organic matter** – (FPOM) fine particles of organic matter.
- iv. **Leaf litter** – Terrestrial leaves from trees that have fallen into the water (do not collect).
- v. **Senesced vegetation** – Dead vegetation rooted in the stream from the previous season.
- vi. **Substratum size class** – Record only if there is no plant or other organic material above is present
 - a. **Silt** < 0.063 mm
 - b. **Sand** = 0.063-2.0 mm
 - c. **Pebble** = 2.0-63 mm
 - d. **Cobble** = 63-200 mm
 - e. **Boulder** = 200-630 mm
 - f. **Bedrock**
 - g. **Other**
- vii. **Other** – additional categories may be added as necessary (e.g., tumbleweed, terrestrial plant), record a descriptive identification of the substrate. Examples include points that include dry and wet substrate beneath (e.g., exposed coarse woody debris with wetted cobble substrate below), or anything that does not fit within the categories above, describe in remarks.
- c. Growth form (see Definitions Section 4)
 - i. **Emergent (E)**
 - ii. **Floating-leaved (FL)**
 - iii. **Submerged (S)**
 - iv. **Free-floating (FF)**
- 7. Collect filamentous macroalgae for taxonomic analysis. Do not attempt to identify in the field.
 - a. Only remove macroalgae if they form filaments (Figure 5) that can be easily sampled by hand. Amorphous clouds of algae will be sampled in the periphyton protocol (RD[10]).
 - b. If macroalgae is abundant at the site and it appears to be similar at several points along the transect, do not collect a sample at each point. Create a morphospecies ID in the mobile application (e.g., “macroalgae1” at Transect 1) and collect a sample at one point along the transect. Select that morphospecies ID for later points along the transect if the algae appears to be of similar composition, without collecting an additional sample at each point.
 - i. Macroalgae morphospecies IDs cannot be shared between transects, create a new ID (i.e. “macroalgae2”) at Transect 2 and collect a new sample for the morphospecies
 - ii. Limit macroalgae collection to <20 samples per site/bout.
- 8. If you are not able to determine the plant species from the groups listed above, collect a corresponding voucher specimen off the transect and give the specimen and descriptive morphospecies ID.
 - a. Voucher specimens should be collected when plants cannot be positively identified in the field. Flowers or fruit are often necessary to identify many plant species (especially grasses), so

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specimens may be collected at any time during the year, not just during aquatic plant sampling. Collect obligate aquatic species only. Be prepared on any field visit with zip-top bags and labels. Voucher specimens will be collected in duplicate, with one specimen archived at the domain herbarium and one specimen archived by the external taxonomist.

- b. For any non-endangered aquatic plants, mosses, liverworts, or lichens that cannot be positively identified *in situ* using the field identification key, collect a small voucher specimen within the same habitat unit, but not directly on the transect.
 - i. Collect specimens only if the species is abundant within the reach. If the species is rare (covering less than ~5% of stream bottom), photograph and note location.
 - a. **Aquatic plants:** collect at least 2 full plants (roots, stems, leaves, flowers) so one can be kept at the domain lab and one can be sent to the taxonomist
 - b. **Mosses and liverworts:** collect a sample that is no larger than the size of your palm
 - c. **Lichens:** collect 2 specimens approximately 1"-2" in diameter
- c. Record voucher information on the voucher mobile app (RD[05]) and proceed to sample labeling and storage in SOP C.4.

C.4 Sample Labeling and Storage

1. Write a label on all-weather paper for quadrat biomass, voucher, and rake (Figure 8) samples, then add inside the sample bag. The sample ID on the label must match the ID generated in the mobile app.
 - a. If there is too much material for one bag, split the sample over two or more bags and make appropriate labels with "#1 of 2" and "#2 of 2" etc. on the labels. You may fold plants if necessary to fit them in the sample bag.
2. Close and seal sample bag.
 - a. Sample bag for transportation from the field to the domain lab may be a Whirl-pak®, zip-top bag, or trash bag depending on the size of the sample.
3. If available, add an adhesive barcode label to the white area on the Whirl-pak® or zip-top bag and scan using the mobile tablet.
4. Place all labeled and sealed sample bags in a dark cooler with frozen ice packs for transportation to the Domain Support Facility.
 - a. Keep samples in a cooler with ice or ice packs (~4 °C) until returning to the lab.
 - b. The total time from collection to the start of sample processing in the lab must not exceed 48 hours in order to minimize decomposition of samples.
 - c. Store samples at the Domain Support Facility as per SOP C.6.

C.5 Special Considerations

1. **DO NOT COLLECT ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES.** At sites where endangered taxa are known to occur, special precautions should be taken so threatened/endangered plants are not

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collected. This may be challenging as submerged species may be difficult to see. If species of concern are known to occur at the site, you will be notified by NEON Permitting ahead of sampling.

2. A list of endangered/threatened taxa in the region will also be provided for each domain.
3. If endangered species are accidentally collected:
 - a. Make a note of the location in the mobile app (e.g., “50 m northwest of sensor set”) and record GPS coordinates so the location can be avoided for biomass collection.
 - b. Take high resolution photos
 - c. Retain the collected material, press and send to external taxonomists for identification (SOP D.4) and submit a problem ticket to report findings to NEON Permitting .
 - d. If invasive species (e.g., *Hydrilla*) are identified (as defined by USDA aquatic nuisance species or local or state lists), submit a problem ticket to report findings to NEON Permitting to inform equipment decontamination procedures.

C.6 Sample Preservation

1. Keep samples refrigerated ($4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 3\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) and in the dark until processing at the Domain Support Facility.
2. Samples must be returned to the Domain Support Facility or remote lab facility and processed within 48 hours.

C.7 Ending the Sampling Day

1. Refresh the sampling kit
 - a. Replace Whirl-pak® and resealable bags.
 - b. Print new field labels and field datasheets on all-weather copier paper. Prepare barcode labels if available.
 - c. Sync mobile app.
 - d. Check and charge all batteries, replace if necessary.
 - e. Place ice packs in the freezer.
2. Equipment maintenance, cleaning and storage
 - a. Decontaminate all equipment that has come in contact with lake/stream water according to the NEON Aquatic Decontamination Protocol (RD[08]).
 - b. Check depth markings on rake handle/rope, refresh markings if necessary.
 - c. Clean boat and motor; remove aquatic plants by hand to prevent spread of invasive taxa. Allow boat and motor to dry completely.
 - d. Dry all equipment thoroughly between sites and before storage.

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SOP D Laboratory Sampling and Analysis

At the Domain Support Facility, aquatic plant specimens are identified using voucher specimens and keys, weighed and dried for measurements of fresh weight and ash-free dry mass. Macroalgae are preserved and sent to an external lab for identification.

D.1 Preparation

1. If aluminum boats are new and unlabeled:
 - a. Label ~20 boats by inscribing a unique number on the bottom of each boat with a pencil (e.g., A1, A2, A3, etc.; Figure 16).
 - i. NOTE: It doesn't matter what the labels are as long as they are unique and easy to read.
 - b. Place new empty labeled boats in the muffle furnace (500 °C) for 6 hours to burn off any residue.
 - c. After 6 hours, carefully remove boats from the furnace and allow to cool to room temperature.
 - i. Use thermal gloves and tongs
 - ii. Set boats aside in a safe, heatproof location
 - iii. After cooled, weigh boats on analytical balance (0.0001 g) and record boat number and weight (g) in mobile app (RD[05]).
 - d. This may be done in advance, before field sampling.
 - e. Boats may be reused from previous sampling bouts.



Figure 16. Examples of newly labeled aluminum weigh boats.

2. If aluminum weigh boats have been previously labeled and used, clean with a soft brush to remove any residual ash.
 - a. Boats should be re-ashed to minimize residue between sampling events.
 - b. Boats must be re-weighed prior to every use. Minimize touching the boat with un-gloved hands after weighing. Oils from your hands can skew results.

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- c. Best practice is to re-ash boats prior to use, rather than storing ashed and weighed boats for a long period of time between bouts. Boats may be stored in a closed container (e.g., bag, box, or plastic container) to minimize dust contamination.
3. Sample IDs will be generated by the mobile app as follows in Table 12.

Table 12. Example if taxon-specific sample IDs generated by the mobile app, based on species or morphospecies data entered.

Species or Morphospecies example	Example Final Sample ID
Lemnaceae	ARIK.20161027.LEMNA.Q2
macroalgae1	MAYF.20161027.macroalgae1.Q1
<i>Potamogeton nodosus</i>	SUGG.20161027.PONO2.P7
fuzzy fern	MAYF.20161027.fuzzyfern.T4

4. If samples are small and enough material is not available for all analyses, process according to the following hierarchy:
- a. Voucher specimen for taxonomy
 - b. AFDM
 - c. CN

D.2 Aquatic Plants and Bryophytes

The following steps are used to process aquatic plant and bryophyte samples from quadrats (**wadeable streams**) and rakes (**lakes and rivers**; Figure 17).

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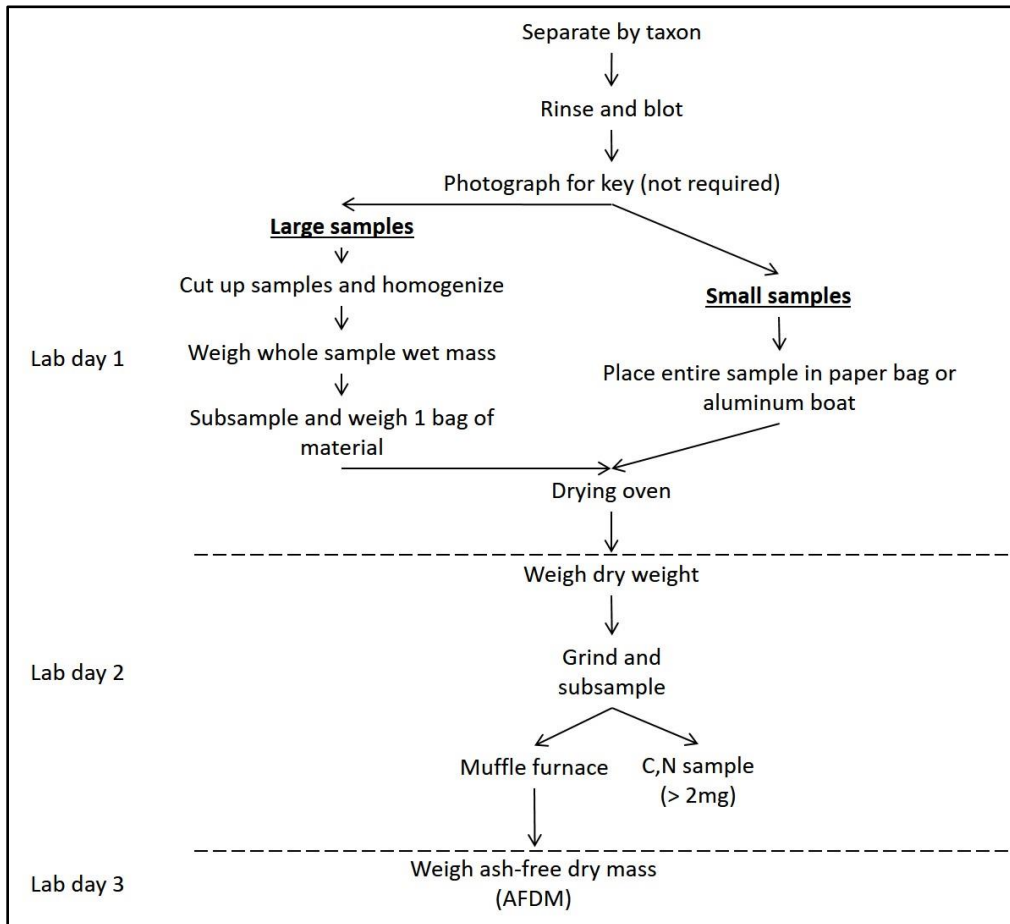



Figure 17. After separating each species from the original sample, follow the steps above for Domain Support Facility aquatic plant processing.

1. **Day 1:** Remove plant/bryophyte sample and field label from sample bag from quadrat sampling. Set label aside.
2. Gently rinse the sample with tap water over a 1 mm sieve to remove sediment, large epiphytes, and debris.
 - a. Some aquatic plants are very fragile and may break easily during rinsing. The sieve will collect any plant fragments but allow sediments to be washed away.
3. Separate sample into individual taxa. Separate macroalgae if they were included in the sample bag and set aside.
 - a. Each species will be a unique specimen.
 - b. Floating the sample in a tray of water may help facilitate separation of taxa.
 - c. At some sites, it may be difficult to separate macroalgae from plant material. After spreading the entire sample out on a tray, spend no more than 5 minutes sorting the sample.
 - d. If there is not enough specimen to complete all analyses, prioritize samples as follows:

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- i. Taxonomy: Only subsample for taxonomy if specimen cannot be identified in domain lab, or is not needed to contribute to the herbarium
 - ii. AFDM
 - iii. CN
4. Clean plant fragments out of the sieve and add to the respective specimen.
5. Spread cleaned specimen on a standard drier (blotting paper), gently blot with laboratory tissues (smaller specimens) or paper towels (larger specimens) to remove some water content before placing in the drying oven. **DO NOT CRUSH** specimen or attempt to wring the water out.
 - a. How dry is dry? Blot specimens dry until they no longer drip water when you pick them up.
 - b. For large-volume specimens, you may need multiple standard driers.
6. Identify the specimen using field key and/or voucher specimens.
 - a. If specimen cannot be identified at the Domain Support Facility with at least 85% confidence, use temporary morphospecies ID and send a voucher specimen to external taxonomist.
 - b. For rake samples, replace the temporary rake ID with a taxon- or morphospecies-specific sample ID.
7. Cut samples, if necessary, to a size that will fit into paper bags and homogenize.
 - a. Weigh entire sample on mass balance and record as **Total wet mass** in the lab app (APPENDIX I, RD[05]). This may occur on the 2-place balance if the sample is large (0.01 g accuracy).
 - b. For large samples: Select a well-homogenized subsample that will fit in one paper bag and weigh. Record as **Subsample wet mass** in the lab app. The remaining material not used in the subsample may be discarded.
 - c. If subsamples are not necessary, **Subsample wet mass = Total wet mass**.
8. Using a permanent marker, label a clean, paper lunch bag with sample ID and species ID from the field sample label.
9. Place wet sample (or wet mass subsample) in the labeled clean paper lunch bag.
 - a. If the specimen is fragile, small pieces may cling to the standard drier. If it is a small amount in relation to the entire sample, it is ok if you are unable to get every fragment off of the standard drier.
10. Place paper bags containing samples in the drying oven for a minimum of 12 hours at 65 °C or until constant mass is achieved (i.e., mass varies by <2% over a one-hour period; RD[11]).
 - a. Check a subset of at least 3 sample bags to determine whether constant mass has been achieved. Use TOS “Lab Drying QC Datasheet” in Measurement of Herbaceous Biomass datasheets (RD[12]). These data are not entered into the data ingest.
 - b. Specimens may be split across multiple labeled paper bags to facilitate drying.
11. **Day 2:** When dry, remove all bags+samples from drying oven and let cool to room temperature in a closed plastic bag or the desiccator prior to weighing.
 - a. Placing samples in a bag/desiccator is important because samples absorb water quickly from the air as they cool.
 - b. Samples may be left in the bags/desiccator for up to 30 days before proceeding to the next step.

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12. Place a large, clean, plastic weigh boat (small specimen) or tray (large specimen) on analytical balance. Tare (zero) balance. Place dry specimen in the plastic weigh boat/tray and record as **Total or Subsample Dry Mass** in the lab app.
13. Samples may be crushed (with a gloved hand) to fit into weigh boat. If samples are large, grind sample in Wiley mill using 20 mesh (0.85 mm) screen to homogenize.
 - a. Clean grinding mill thoroughly with compressed air between samples and with ethanol after finishing the sampling bout.
14. Subsample for CN and AFDM.
 - a. Remove ≥ 2 mg for C and N analysis. Place in 4 mL PTFE-capped glass vial, apply adhesive label, and set aside for shipping. If available, use a small barcode label and scan using the mobile tablet.
 - i. Samples sent to external lab for CN must be ground on the Wiley Mill using 40 mesh.
 - b. Place remaining specimen subsample in a clean, pre-labeled, pre-weighed aluminum weigh boat. Record **Boat ID** and **Boat mass** in the lab app.
 - i. If the ground specimen is too large for the aluminum weigh boat, put only a portion of the subsample in the boat (~1-2 g).
 - ii. Handle the weigh boat using tongs or forceps to avoid transferring oils from your hands or powder from your gloves to the sample.
15. Weigh boat on analytical balance, and record as **Boat + dry mass** in the lab app.
16. Repeat above steps until all specimens have been processed.
17. Place aluminum boats + specimens in the muffle furnace using oven gloves and tongs. **TAKE CARE NOT TO BURN YOURSELF!**

 - a. Boats may be stacked on top of each other as long as there is space for air flow between them.
 - b. Boats may be placed in an approved muffle furnace pan (if available) before placing in the furnace. This may make it easier and safer to handle samples.
 - c. Covering the pan with foil will help protect the samples from the rush of air after opening the muffle furnace and avoid sample loss.
18. Leave samples in the muffle furnace at 500 °C for at least 6 hours.
 - a. Sample may be left in muffle furnace for longer than 6 hours (e.g., overnight) if necessary.
 - b. If necessary, the muffle furnace may cool down prior to removing the samples.
19. **Day 3:** After 6+ hours, remove covered pans/aluminum boats carefully from the muffle furnace using oven gloves and crucible tongs.
 - a. The muffle furnace may be turned off and allowed to cool prior to removing specimens. Depending on the model of muffle furnace, a draft may be created if the furnace is not cool before opening the door.
20. Cover pans/aluminum boats to prevent ash from blowing out of boats and set aside to cool on a heat-resistant surface in an area without drafts from windows, doors, or mechanical building ventilation.

21. When boats have cooled enough to handle, place in the desiccator. Allow samples to cool to room temperature in the desiccator for at least 20 minutes prior to weighing.
 - a. Samples may be left in desiccator for up to 30 days before proceeding to the next step.
22. After cooling to room temperature, weigh boats again on analytical balance, record as **Boat + ash mass** in the lab app.
 - a. **Boat + ash mass** should be a smaller number than **Boat + dry mass**, as the muffle furnace burns off organic material.
23. After weighing, dump ash into the trash and clean the boat with a soft brush or paper towel.
 - a. If there have been problems with the balance, consider storing the ashed samples in the desiccator until you have quality checked the data.
24. Set clean boats aside to be used again.

D.3 Macroalgae

The following steps are used to process macroalgae samples from quadrats and rakes (Figure 18).

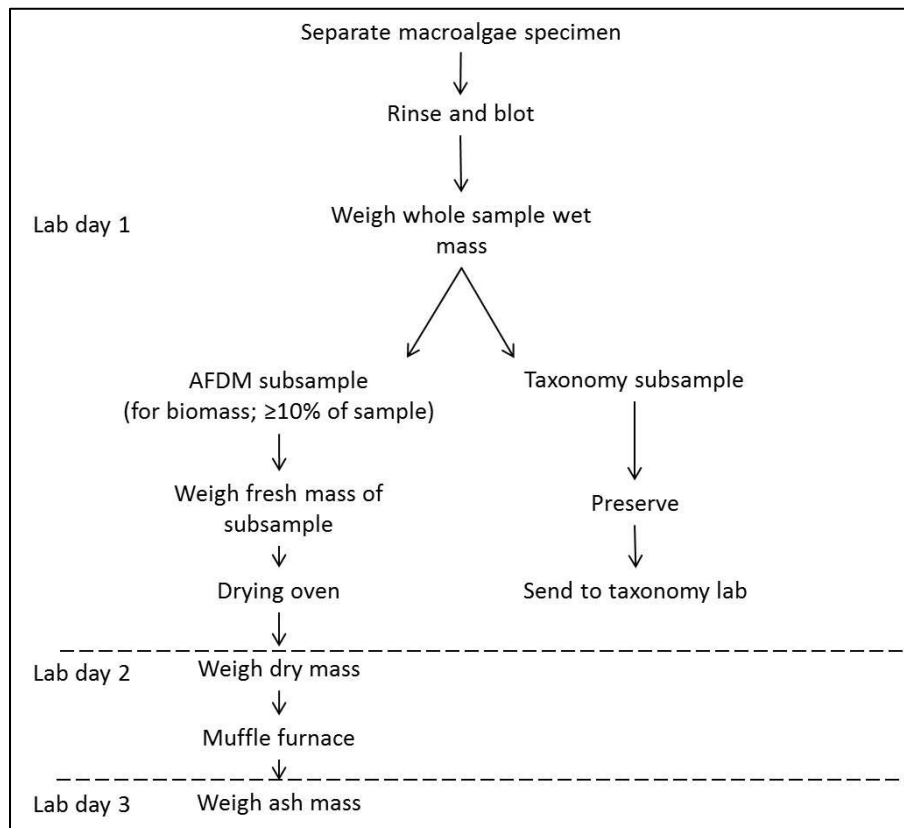


Figure 18. Schematic for macroalgae processing at the Domain Support Facility.

1. **Day 1:** Remove macroalgae specimens from sample bag. Set label aside.

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- a. If macroalgae are combined in a sample bag with aquatic plants, carefully separate using forceps and/or fingers.
- b. Floating the sample in a tray of water may help facilitate separation of macroalgae from plant material.
- c. At some sites, it may be difficult to separate macroalgae from plant material. After spreading the entire sample out on a tray, spend no more than 5 minutes sorting the sample.
2. Gently rinse specimen to remove sediment or other non-algal material (e.g., leaves, twigs) over a 1 mm sieve.



- a. Take care not to lose any sample material.
- b. Biomass estimates for macroalgae can be elevated in error due to non-algal material trapped in the filaments. Take care to clean specimen well.
3. Clean algal strands out of the sieve and add to the specimen.
4. Spread cleaned specimen on standard drier, gently blot dry with laboratory tissues or paper towels. **DO NOT CRUSH** sample or attempt to wring the water out.
 - a. How dry is dry? Blot specimens dry until they no longer drip water when you pick them up.
 - b. For large-volume specimens, you may need multiple standard driers.
 - c. If there is not enough specimen to conduct AFDM analysis (less than approximately 10 mL of algae), place macroalgae directly into 60 mL HDPE sample bottle and proceed to D.8.
5. For rake samples, replace the temporary rake ID with a morphospecies-specific sample ID.
6. Weigh entire macroalgae sample on mass balance and record as **Total wet mass** in the lab app.
 - a. Taxonomy subsample: Remove ~10 mL of sample to preserve for taxonomic identification and place in 60 mL HDPE bottle and add enough DI water to cover sample. Proceed to Sample Preservation, SOP D.8. Label according to Figure 19, and use a barcode label if available.
 - i. If there is only ~10 mL of sample, do not process for AFDM, rather contribute all material to the taxonomy sample.
 - b. AFDM subsample: Remove 10-50% of original sample and place in a clean, pre-labeled, pre-weighed aluminum weigh boat. Weigh subsample and record as **Subsample wet mass** in the lab app along with appropriate **Boat ID** and **Boat mass**.
 - c. Repeat above steps until all samples have been processed.

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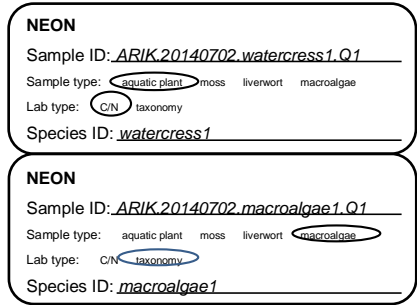


Figure 19. Example of adhesive labels for macroalgae taxonomy and plant CN subsamples

7. Place all aluminum boats + subsamples in drying oven for a minimum of 12 hours at 65 °C or until constant weight is achieved (i.e., mass varies by <2% over a one-hour period; RD[11]). Cover boats with a cardboard lid or piece of paper to prevent samples from blowing out of the boats once in the oven.



- a. **NOTE:** It is helpful to place a number of boats + subsamples in shallow cardboard trays in the drying oven. These can be moved in and out of the oven more efficiently than moving one sample at a time. Aluminum boats + samples can stay in the drying oven longer than 12 hours if needed.



8. **Day 2:** When dry, carefully remove boats from drying oven and let cool to room temperature in a plastic bag or desiccator.
 - a. Take care not to let the dried sample blow out of the boats.
 - b. Placing samples in a bag or desiccator is important because samples absorb water quickly from the air as they cool.
 - c. Samples may be left in desiccator or plastic bags for up to 30 days before proceeding to the next step.
9. Weigh the boat + dry sample on tared analytical balance, and record as **Boat + dry mass** in the lab app.
10. Repeat above steps until all samples have been processed.



11. Place aluminum boats + samples in the muffle furnace using oven gloves and tongs. **TAKE CARE NOT TO BURN YOURSELF!**
 - a. Boats may be stacked on top of each other as long as there is space for air flow between them. Aluminum foil may be used to separate stacked boats.
 - b. Boats may be placed in an approved muffle furnace pan (loaf pan) if available before placing in the furnace. This may make it easier and safer to handle samples.
12. Leave samples in the muffle furnace at 500 °C for at least 6 hours.
 - a. Sample may be left in muffle furnace for longer than 6 hours (e.g., overnight) if necessary.
13. **Day 3:** After 6+ hours, remove pans/aluminum boats carefully from the muffle furnace using oven gloves and crucible tongs.

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- a. The muffle furnace may be turned off and allowed to cool prior to removing specimens. Depending on the model of muffle furnace, a draft may be created if the furnace is not cool before opening the door.
14. Cover pans/aluminum boats with aluminum foil to prevent ash from blowing out of boats and set aside to cool on a heat-resistant surface without drafts from windows, doors, or mechanical building ventilation.
15. When boats have cooled enough to handle, weigh immediately or place in desiccator.
 - a. Samples may be left in desiccator for up to 30 days before proceeding to the next step.
16. After cooling to room temperature, weigh boats again on analytical balance, record as **Boat + ash mass** in the lab app.
17. After weighing, discard ash in trash can and clean the boat with a soft brush or paper towel.
18. Set clean boats aside to be used again.

D.4 Pressing Aquatic Plants (Taxonomy)

1. Open plant press.
2. Place 1 cardboard ventilator on plant press.
3. Place 1 standard drier on top of cardboard ventilator.
4. Place newspaper (2 sheets, opened) on top of the standard drier.
5. Copy information from the specimen label onto the newspaper using a permanent marker and fill out taxonomy label file (APPENDIX F, RD[05]) for plant taxonomist.
6. Arrange specimen on newspaper, spread leaves and stems apart. Try to lay all parts flat, open any flowers so they lay flat on the paper.
 - a. Do not allow leaves or specimens to overlap.
7. Place specimen label on newspaper (for additional identification). Add a barcode label and scan using the mobile tablet if available.
8. Fold opened newspaper sheet over the sheet that the specimen is on.
9. Place another standard drier on top of newspaper.
10. Place a cardboard ventilator on top of the standard drier.
11. Repeat Steps 2-10 with Specimen #2. Continue until all specimens have been pressed.
12. Place wooden top of plant press on top of last cardboard ventilator.
13. Fasten compression straps, pull tightly to apply even pressure to the press.
14. Set press in a warm, ventilated, dry location. Check periodically to ensure that no mildew forms on the press.
15. Leave plants in press until they are shipped to taxonomist.
16. Proceed to Herbarium Mounts (SOP D.5) for specimens that are kept in the domain herbarium.

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D.5 Herbarium Mounts (Aquatic Plants Only)

Herbarium mounts are created for specimens that are kept in the domain herbarium for reference.

1. Refer to the Plant Pressing and Mounting SOP (RD[18]).
2. Open plant press carefully.
3. Open a newspaper sheet with one specimen on it.
 - a. If there are small pieces or reproductive structures that have fallen off of the main samples, you may place these in a bryophyte/lichen packet or seed envelope and adhere the packet to the top left corner of the herbarium paper with the flap facing out so the plant parts can be easily accessed.
4. Separate into two or more specimens.
 - a. One specimen will be sent to the aquatic plant taxonomist (keep in newspaper, proceed to SOP F for shipping).
 - b. One specimen will be mounted and retained at the Domain Herbarium.
 - c. Include flowering structures in each specimen if present. If only one specimen has flowers, send this specimen to the taxonomist for complete identification.
5. Follow instructions for pressing and mounting in RD[18].

D.6 Drying Moss, Liverwort, and Lichen Specimens (Taxonomy, if collected)

1. Print Bryophyte/Lichen packets on all-weather copier paper (APPENDIX D).
 - a. Fold in thirds (like a letter) with the label on the outside.
 - b. Open the flap with the label, fold in margins along the dotted lines.
 - c. This will create a packet when the label flap is closed.
2. Copy all label information for each specimen to the outside of two paper packets (APPENDIX D).
 - a. Fill out as much supporting habitat information as you can. If the section does not seem to apply, leave it blank.
3. Gently rinse specimen in tap water to remove sediments. Take care to avoid breaking the specimen.
4. If using this specimen to create a lab photo key, lay the specimen out on the lab bench, photograph using the macro setting on the camera. Be sure to take photos of any fruiting bodies. A photo does not need to be taken for each specimen.
5. Split the specimen into two portions, one to keep at the Domain Herbarium, and one to send to the taxonomist.
6. Place each specimen inside a labeled packet. Add a barcode label if available, and scan using the mobile tablet.
 - a. **NOTE:** If specimen is a lichen, leave the lichen attached to rock substratum if present.
7. Set packets in a warm, ventilated, dry location. Check periodically to ensure that the specimen is drying without mildew formation.
8. Retain one set of packets at Domain Herbarium, proceed to SOP F for shipping instructions to taxonomists.



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D.7 Resolving Morphospecies

1. Morphospecies names and descriptions are good for 1 calendar year in the mobile app.
2. Morphospecies may be identified to an accepted taxon ID by field ecologists at any step in the process.
3. If a morphospecies can be resolved (i.e., identified to a name in the plant taxon list), open the morphospecies mobile app, enter the correct taxon ID from the taxon list and mark as “resolved”.
4. Ecologists do not need to go back through old data to update these morphospecies, however any data that has not yet been submitted and locked should be updated to reflect the resolved ID.

D.8 Preserving Samples

1. **Aquatic plant specimens** sent out for further taxonomic identification should be dried and pressed in a plant press. Pressed plants should be stored in a dry, well-ventilated area until shipping. For every specimen sent to a taxonomist, an identical specimen should be mounted and kept in the domain herbarium.
2. **Mosses, liverworts, and lichens** sent out for further taxonomic identification should be dried and placed in paper packets (APPENDIX D). Specimens should be stored in a dry, well-ventilated area until shipping. For every specimen sent to a taxonomist, an identical specimen should be and kept in the domain herbarium.
3. **Macroalgae samples** are preserved using a disposable pipet. Preserve each sample with glutaraldehyde to reach a final concentration of 2% glutaraldehyde in the sample. Preserved samples may be stored at 4 °C (± 3 °C) for up to 30 days until shipping.
 - a. For reference, 60 mL of sample (or sample + water) is preserved with 1.2 mL of glutaraldehyde.

D.9 Ending the Processing Day

1. Refreshing the laboratory supplies
 - a. Ensure that there is enough preservative for the next sampling date.
 - b. Ensure that there is adequate room in the plant presses for new specimens.
2. Equipment maintenance, cleaning and storage
 - a. Clean and dry all aluminum weigh dishes.
 - b. Store plant presses in a dry, well-ventilated area until removing specimens for shipping.

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SOP E Data Entry and Verification

Mobile applications are the preferred mechanism for data entry. Data should be entered into the protocol-specific application as they are being collected, whenever possible, to minimize data transcription and improve data quality. If available, adhesive barcode labels should be used and scanned into the mobile application. Mobile devices should be synced at the end of each field day, where possible; alternatively, devices should be synced immediately upon return to the Domain Support Facility. For detailed instructions on protocol specific data entry into mobile devices, see the NEON Internal Sampling Support Library (SSL).

Given the potential for mobile devices to fail under field conditions, it is imperative that paper datasheets are always available to record data. Paper datasheets should be carried along with the mobile devices to sampling locations at all times. As a best practice, field data collected on paper datasheets should be digitally transcribed within 7 days of collection or the end of a sampling bout (where applicable). However, given logistical constraints, the maximum timeline for entering data is within 14 days of collection or the end of a sampling bout (where applicable). See RD[04] for complete instructions regarding manual data transcription.

Rename voucher photos similar to sample ID naming convention: “SITE.DATE.species.transectID/quadratID/pointID” (e.g., ARIK.20140702.duckweed.T3). These are for use in the domain lab and will not be submitted to the data portal.

Data and sample IDs must be entered digitally and quality checked prior to shipping samples to an external lab.

SOP F Sample Shipment

Information included in this SOP conveys science-based packaging, shipping, and handling requirements, not lab-specific or logistical demands. For that information, reference the CLA shipping document on NEON’s CLA intranet site.

F.1 Algal Taxonomy Sample Shipping

1. Macroalgae taxonomy samples must not freeze, take care to avoid shipping at times when the samples may be subject to sitting for long periods in a frozen warehouse (e.g., take note of lab weekend and holiday receiving schedule). Macroalgae taxonomy samples may be shipped with Periphyton and Phytoplankton taxonomy samples (RD[10]).
2. Place bottles into one or several gallon-size resealable zip-top bags, grouped by site.
3. Line a cardboard box or 9 qt. cooler with a trash bag to prevent leaks.
4. Place all bottles right-side up inside the liner bag. Add packing material (Vermiculite or other) to take up excess space in container, cushion samples, and act as an absorbent should bottles leak.
 - a. If using 9 qt. coolers, include return shipping label for external lab to send cooler back.

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- b. Combine shipment with periphyton/phytoplankton taxonomy samples if possible.
- 5. Proceed to General Shipping Instructions (Section F.5).
- 6. Ship ground at ambient temperature.

F.2 Plant CN Sample Shipping

- 1. Organize sample vials by site/bout in resealable bags.
- 2. Wrap bagged sample vials in bubble wrap to cushion during shipping.
- 3. Include shipping inventory/manifest in additional zip-top bag.
- 4. Ship ground at ambient temperature. Samples may also be shipped frozen with Periphyton and Phytoplankton chemistry filters (RD[10]) if they are going to the same external lab.

F.3 Plant Taxonomy Sample Shipping

- 1. Ship pressed plants in the original newspaper.
- 2. Stack the newspapers containing specimens, sandwich the bundle of specimens securely between two pieces of cardboard.
- 3. Place bundle in a cardboard box.
- 4. Include shipping inventory/manifest in additional zip-top bag.
- 5. Ship ground at ambient temperature.
- 6. Proceed to General Shipping Instructions (Section F.5).

F.4 Moss, Liverwort, Lichen Taxonomy Sample Shipping

- 1. Ship moss, liverwort, and lichen specimens in original envelopes.
- 2. Organize specimens by site/bout in clean, dry resealable bags.
- 3. Place bags in a cardboard box.
- 4. Wrap bagged packets in bubble wrap to cushion during shipping.
- 5. Include shipping inventory/manifest in additional zip-top bag.
- 6. Ship ground at ambient temperature.
- 7. Proceed to General Shipping Instructions (Section F.5).

F.5 General Shipping instructions

- 1. Navigate to the “Shipping Information for External Facilities” document on CLA’s NEON intranet site. Check whether items such as permits or cover letters are required in the shipment. Check this document often as instructions are subject to change.
- 2. Prepare a shipping inventory detailing the contents of the shipment, using the protocol-specific templates found on CLA’s NEON intranet site (RD[11]). Include a printed copy of the shipping inventory in the shipment box in a zip-top bag.
- 3. Save the inventory with the following naming convention:
“DXX_APL_ShippingInventory_YYYYMMDD_XofX”

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- a. Example: "D05_APL_ShippingInventory_20161202_1of1"
4. Complete packing slip, address shipment, and ship ground to the destination(s) specified in the CLA "Shipping Information for External Facilities" document.
 - a. Glutaraldehyde in these concentrations is not considered hazardous.
5. Email an electronic copy of the shipping manifest and tracking number to the email addresses listed in the CLA "Shipping Information for External Facilities" document, including the NEON CLA email address.
6. Include hardcopy of shipping inventory/manifest in additional zip-top bag.

F.6 Handling Hazardous Material

Glutaraldehyde in the concentration and volume shipped by NEON for this protocol is not considered hazardous.

F.7 Supplies/Containers

See Sections F.1-F.4 and Table 10 for specific shipping materials.

F.8 Timelines and Conditions

1. **Algal taxonomy samples:** Shipping should occur within one week of sampling if possible, but samples may be stored at the domain support facility at 4 °C (±3 °C) for up to 30 days if necessary.
 - a. Preserved samples may be held for up to 6 months (or longer) if the lab is not able to receive samples (All samples from one sampling bout must be collected within one day (i.e., all samples per site as detailed in this protocol). A minimum of 2 weeks between sample periods shall be observed.
 - b. **Table 1).**
2. **Pressed or dried taxonomy specimens:** May be stored in plant press or bryophyte/lichen packet until shipping at room temperature.
 - a. Dried samples may be held up to 6 months or longer if the lab is not able to receive samples (All samples from one sampling bout must be collected within one day (i.e., all samples per site as detailed in this protocol). A minimum of 2 weeks between sample periods shall be observed.
 - b. **Table 1).**
3. **Plant CN samples:** May be stored in labeled vials dry at room temperature.
 - a. Dried samples may be held up to 6 months or longer if the lab is not able to receive samples.

F.9 Grouping/Splitting Samples

Group samples of each type by site per bout.

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F.10 Return of Materials or Containers

Include return shipping label if any shipping materials need to be returned to the domain support facility (e.g., cooler).

F.11 Shipping Inventory

Shipments are to have a hardcopy of the per sample tab of the shipping inventory (RD[13]) sent in each box as well as an electronic shipping inventory that is emailed to the receiving laboratory and to the contact in NEON Collections and Laboratory Analysis at the time of shipment. Also include the shipment tracking number in the email. Email plant taxonomy labels (APPENDIX F, RD[05]) to aquatic plant taxonomist.

F.12 Laboratory Contact Information and Shipping/Receipt Days

See the Shipping Information for External Facilities on NEON's CLA intranet site.

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APPENDIX A DATASHEETS

The following datasheets are associated with this protocol:

Table 13. Datasheets associated with this protocol

NEON Doc. #	Title	Mobile Application
NEON.DOC.003040	Datasheets for AOS Protocol and Procedure: Aquatic Plant, Bryophyte, Lichen, and Macroalgae Sampling	(AOS) Plants – Field [PROD] (AOS) Plants – Lab [PROD]
NEON.DOC.001646	General AQU Field Metadata Sheet	(AOS) Field Metadata and Gauge Height [PROD]
NEON.DOC.001574	Datasheets for TOS Protocol and Procedure: Measurement of Herbaceous Biomass	NA, do not enter aquatic plant data into TOS herbaceous biomass app
NEON.DOC.002494	Datasheets for AOS Shipping Inventory	Shipping App [PROD]

These datasheets can be found in Agile or the NEON Document Warehouse.

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APPENDIX B QUICK REFERENCES

Step 1 – Check the field sampling kit to make sure all supplies are packed.

Step 2 – Prepare labels (2" x 4", all-weather paper).

Step 3 – Ensure the General AQU Field Metadata Sheet (RD[06]) is completed per field site visit.

Step 4 – Determine sampling locations:

1. In **wadeable streams**, determine habitat sampling locations from the Stream Morphology Map (RD[09]) or rapid habitat assessment, and establish transects:
 - a. If this is the first site visit record transect end point locations using the GPS (accuracy ± 4 m)
 - b. If this is not the first visit return to previously established transects
2. In **lakes and rivers**, determine randomized points:
 - a. Determine plant colonization depth using the transect method.
 - b. Generate a polygon using the portions of the lake/river bottom that are equal to or shallower than the colonizable depth. Create 20 random coordinates within the defined polygon.
 - c. At sites where plants are floating, include all areas of lake where plants are floating regardless of depth.

Step 5 – Sample based on aquatic habitat type.

1. In **wadeable streams**:
 - a. Biomass Quadrats: Toss the quadrat into the channel 1 m to 4 m downstream of the transect, remove all aquatic plants, bryophytes, and macroalgae from the quadrat.
 - b. Point Transects: Space sampling points at even intervals 10 cm to 50 cm apart to have approximately 20 sampling points across each transect. Determine presence-absence using the view bucket and collect voucher specimens if plants cannot be positively identified in the field.
2. In **lakes or rivers**:
 - a. Randomized Point Sampling: Collect samples at 10 points, with 3 rake tows from each point.

Step 6 – Keep samples chilled (~ 4 °C) and in the dark until processing at the Domain Support Facility.

Step 7 – Lab processing:

1. **Aquatic Plants/Mosses**: photograph (if necessary), measure dry weight, grind and subsample for ash-free dry mass, subsample for CN sample, press and mount plants or place in packets for Domain Herbarium and taxonomist (if necessary).
2. **Macroalgae**: measure ash-free dry mass, preserve in glutaraldehyde and send to taxonomy lab.

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APPENDIX C REMINDERS

Before heading into the field: Make sure you...

- Collect and prepare all equipment including labels.
- Pre-print labels on waterproof paper.
- Upload GPS locations for transect or point locations.

Sample collection in wadeable streams: Be sure to...

- Determine the dominant habitat and second-most dominant habitat based on the Stream Morphology Map (RD[09]) or rapid habitat assessment
- Take care not to place transects in locations where you or others have been walking in the stream or are obvious crossing areas for wildlife (e.g., beavers, cows).
- Transects should not be located within 5 m of the aquatic sensor sets or discharge transect location due to heavy foot traffic in those areas.
- Start sampling at the bottom of the reach, working upstream so as not to decrease visibility and disrupt aquatic plant, bryophyte, lichen and macroalgae communities.
- Take extra care when rinsing samples to not lose the sample material.
- Remove aquatic plants, bryophytes and macroalgae from the quadrat, but do not remove lichen.
- **DO NOT COLLECT ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES.**
- Collect point transect data along transects, collect voucher specimens off transect if necessary.

Sample collection in lakes and rivers: Be sure to...

- Determine the 20 random points based off of the perimeter shapefile from the most recent bathymetric map.
- Determine plant colonizable depth.
- Collect samples at 10 points, with 3 rake tows from each point.
- Take care when removing plants as the rake tines are very sharp.
- Take extra care when rinsing to not lose the samples.
- **DO NOT COLLECT ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES.**

Sample processing: Be sure to...

- **DO NOT CRUSH** samples or attempt to wring the water out.
- Take care not to let the dried sample blow out of weigh boats.

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APPENDIX E THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

Domain	Symbol	Scientific name	Common name	Federal status*	State status*	Habitat type
D1	BOFL3	<i>Bolboschoenus fluviatilis</i>	river bullrush		MA (SC)	aquatic (stream)
D1	POCE3	<i>Podostemum ceratophyllum</i>	hornleaf riverweed		MA (SC)	aquatic (stream)
D1	CAAL8	<i>Carex alopecoidea</i>	foxtail sedge		MA (T)	aquatic (stream)
D1	SPPE3	<i>Sphenopholis pensylvanica</i>	swamp oats		MA (T)	riparian (stream, pond)
D1	CALE8	<i>Carex lenticularis</i>	lakeshore sedge		MA (T)	riparian (stream, pond)
D1	CAMI15	<i>Carex michauxiana</i>	Michaux's sedge		MA (E)	riparian (stream, pond)
D1	CAOL3	<i>Carex oligosperma</i>	fewseed sedge		MA (E)	riparian (stream, pond)
D1	CASC9	<i>Carex schweinitzii</i>	Schweinitz's sedge		MA (E)	riparian (stream, pond)
D1	CATU2	<i>Carex tuckermanii</i>	Tuckerman's sedge		MA (E)	riparian (stream, pond)
D2	ELIN	<i>Eleocharis intermedia</i>	matted spikerush		MD (E)	aquatic
D2	PAFL5	<i>Paspalum fluitans</i>	horsetail paspalum		MD (E)	aquatic
D2	POAM5	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	largeleaf pondweed		MD (E, X)	aquatic
D2	POFO3	<i>Potamogeton foliosus</i>	leafy pondweed		MD (E)	aquatic
D2	PORI2	<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	Richardson's pondweed		MD (E, X)	aquatic
D2	PORO2	<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	Robbins' pondweed		MD (E, X)	aquatic
D2	POZO	<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	flatstem pondweed		MD (E)	aquatic
D2	SCSU10	<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i>	swaying bulrush			aquatic
D2	WOFL	<i>Wolffiella floridana</i>	duckweed		MD (E, X)	aquatic
D2	WOGI2	<i>Wolffiella gladiata</i>	Florida mudmidget			aquatic
D2	CALA16	<i>Carex lacustris</i>	hairy sedge		MD (T)	aquatic (stream, pond)
D2	CATU2	<i>Carex tuckermanii</i>	Tuckerman's sedge		MD (E)	aquatic (stream, pond)
D2	CACO14	<i>Carex conoidea</i>	openfield sedge		MD (E)	riparian (stream, pond)
D2	CAGL5	<i>Carex glaucescens</i>	southern waxy sedge		MD (E)	riparian (stream, pond)
D3	ISBO2	<i>Isoetes boomii</i>	Boom's quillwort		FL (E)	aquatic (blackwater stream)
D3	RHCR3	<i>Rhynchospora crinipes</i>	mosquito beaksedge		FL (E)	aquatic (blackwater stream)
D3	HYCO5	<i>Hymenocallis coronaria</i>	Cahaba lily		GA (E)	aquatic (Piedmont rivers)
D3	HYHE2	<i>Hymenocallis henryae</i>	Henry's spiderlily		FL (E)	aquatic (Piedmont rivers)
D3	PTNO	<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i>	piedmont mock bishopweed	E	GA (E)	riparian (stream)
D3	COTU	<i>Coelorachis tuberculosa</i>	bumpy jointtail grass		FL (T)	aquatic (pond)
D3	ISHY	<i>Isoetes hyemalis</i>	evergreen quillwort		FL (E)	aquatic (pond)
D3	MYLA2	<i>Myriophyllum laxum</i>	loose watermilfoil		GA (T)	aquatic (pond)
D3	NYJA	<i>Nymphaea jamesoniana</i>	James' waterlily		FL (E)	aquatic (pond)
D3	POFL5	<i>Potamogeton floridanus</i>	Florida pondweed		FL (E)	aquatic (pond)
D3	NAFI2	<i>Najas filifolia</i>	needleleaf waternymph		FL (T)	aquatic (sandy bottomed lakes)
D5	ARLA22	<i>Armoracia lacustris</i>	lake cress		WI (E)	aquatic (pond)
D5	CAHE3	<i>Callitriche heterophylla</i>	twoheaded water-starwort		WI (T)	aquatic (pond)
D5	STVA8	<i>Stuckenia vaginata</i>	sheathed pondweed			aquatic (pond)
D5	CANA	<i>Caltha natans</i>	floating marsh marigold		WI (E)	aquatic (pond)
D5	ELNI	<i>Eleocharis nitida</i>	quill spikerush		WI (E)	aquatic (pond)
D5	ELQU	<i>Eleocharis quadrangulata</i>	squarestem spikerush		WI (E)	aquatic (pond)
D5	ELRO2	<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>	beaked spikerush		WI (T)	aquatic (pond)
D5	NEAQ2	<i>Neobeckia aquatica</i>	lakecress			aquatic (pond)
D5	POPU6	<i>Potamogeton pulcher</i>	spotted pondweed		WI (E)	aquatic (pond)
D5	RAGM	<i>Ranunculus gmelinii</i>	Gmelin's buttercup			aquatic (pond)
D5	RAGMH	<i>Ranunculus gmelinii var. hookeri</i>	Gmelin's buttercup		WI (E)	aquatic (pond)
D5	SPGL	<i>Sparganium glomeratum</i>	clustered bur-reed		WI (T)	aquatic (pond)
D5	CASC9	<i>Carex schweinitzii</i>	Schweinitz's sedge		WI (E)	aquatic (stream, pond)
D5	CALE8	<i>Carex lenticularis</i>	lakeshore sedge		WI (T)	aquatic (stream, pond)
D5	SCHA9	<i>Schoenoplectus hallii</i>	Hall's bulrush			aquatic, riparian (pond)
D5	FUPU	<i>Fuirena pumila</i>	dwarf umbrella-sedge		WI (E)	riparian (pond)
D5	SCRE	<i>Scleria reticularis</i>	netted nutrush		WI (E)	riparian (pond)

*E=endangered, T=threatened, X=extirpated, PX=possibly extirpated SC=special concern, SR=salvage restricted

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Domain	Symbol	Scientific name	Common name	Federal status*	State status*	Habitat type
D5	CAMI15	<i>Carex michauxiana</i>	Michaux's sedge		WI (T)	riparian (stream)
D5	RHSC5	<i>Rhynchospora scirpoides</i>	longbeak beaksedge			riparian (stream)
D5	SESE	<i>Selaginella selaginoides</i>	club spikemoss		WI (E)	riparian (stream)
D7	ELNU2	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	western waterweed		TN (SC)	aquatic (stream, pond)
D7	SCSU10	<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i>	water bulrush		TN (SC)	aquatic (stream, pond)
D7	CAAL8	<i>Carex alopecoidea</i>	foxtail sedge		TN (PX, E)	riparian (stream)
D7	CAHY2	<i>Carex hyalina</i>	tissue sedge		TN (SC)	riparian (stream)
D7	CLGL	<i>Clematis glaucophylla</i>	whiteleaf leather flower		TN (E)	riparian (stream)
D7	ELLA	<i>Eleocharis lanceolata</i>	daggerleaf spikerush		TN (SC)	riparian (stream)
D7	MATR2	<i>Marshallia trinervia</i>	broadleaf Barbara's buttons		TN (T)	riparian (stream)
D7	RHCH2	<i>Rhynchospora chalarocephala</i>	loosehead beaksedge		TN (T)	riparian (stream)
D7	VEAM2	<i>Veronica americana</i>	American speedwell		TN (SC)	riparian (stream)
D7	VEAN2	<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	water speedwell			riparian (stream)
D7	CACO8	<i>Carex comosa</i>	longhair sedge		TN (T)	riparian (stream, pond)
D7	CAECE	<i>Carex echinata</i>	star sedge		TN (SC)	riparian (stream, pond)
D7	CALA16	<i>Carex lacustris</i>	hairy sedge		TN (T)	riparian (stream, pond)
D7	CAPE42	<i>Carex pellita</i>	woolly sedge			riparian (stream, pond)
D7	ELEQ	<i>Eleocharis equisetoides</i>	jointed spikesedge		TN (E)	riparian (stream, pond)
D7	ELIN	<i>Eleocharis intermedia</i>	matted spikerush		TN (SC)	riparian (stream, pond)
D7	RHRA2	<i>Rhynchospora rariflora</i>	fewflower beaksedge		TN (E)	riparian (stream, pond)
D7	RHWR	<i>Rhynchospora wrightiana</i>	Wright's beaksedge		TN (PX, E)	riparian (stream, pond)
D7	CARO6	<i>Carex rostrata</i>	beaked sedge		TN (T)	aquatic, riparian (stream, pond)
D8	PTNO	<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i>	pedmont mock bishopweed	E		riparian (stream)
D8	XYTE	<i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	Tennessee yelloweyed grass	E		riparian (stream)
D11	POCL	<i>Potamogeton clystocarpus</i>	little aguja pondweed	E	TX (E)	aquatic (pond)
D11	ZITE	<i>Zizania texana</i>	Texas wildrice	E	TX (E)	aquatic (San Marcos rivers)
D14	CIPA	<i>Cirsium parryi</i>	Parry's thistle		AZ (SR)	riparian (stream)
D14	EPGI	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	stream orchid		AZ (SR)	riparian (stream)
D14	LIPA2	<i>Lilium parryi</i>	lemon lily		AZ (SR)	riparian (stream)

*E=endangered, T=threatened, X=extirpated, PX=possibly extirpated SC=special concern, SR=salvage restricted

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APPENDIX F AQUATIC PLANT TAXONOMY LABELS

NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY NETWORK (NEON)	
PLANTS OF THE UNITED STATES	
[STATE]	
[SampleID]	
[habitat]	
[breif description of growth form and location]	
[COUNTY]: [Full site name, direction and # of miles from a known point or town, any locational information.	
[Latitude], [Longitude]	
[date collected]	[Collected by]
	[Recorded by]

NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY NETWORK (NEON)	
PLANTS OF THE UNITED STATES	
[STATE]	
[SampleID]	
[habitat]	
[breif description of growth form and location]	
[COUNTY]: [Full site name, direction and # of miles from a known point	
[Latitude], [Longitude]	
[date collected]	[Collected by]
	[Recorded by]

APPENDIX G ESTIMATED DATES FOR ONSET AND CESSATION OF SAMPLING

Preliminary date ranges for biological sampling bouts in wadeable streams. Also see the Site Specific Sampling Strategy Document on NEON’s FOPS intranet site.

Domain	Site	Bout 1	Bout 2	Bout 3
D01	Hop Brook	11Apr-9May	9Jul-6Aug	30Oct-31Oct
D02	Lewis Run	19Mar-16Apr	5Jul-2Aug	18Oct-15Nov
D02	Posey Creek	19Mar-16Apr	5Jul-2Aug	18Oct-15Nov
D03	Flint River	21Feb-21Mar	27Jun-25Jul	7Oct-4Nov
D03	Lake Barco	9Feb-9Mar	27Jun-25Jul	29Oct-26Nov
D03	Lake Suggs	9Feb-9Mar	27Jun-25Jul	29Oct-26Nov
D04	Rio Guilarte	26Jan-23Feb	21Jun-19Jul	9Nov-7Dec
D04	Rio Cupeyes	24Jan-21Feb	21Jun-19Jul	10Nov-8Dec
D05	Crampton Lake	20Apr-18May	5Jul-2Aug	13Sep-11Oct
D05	Little Rock Lake	20Apr-18May	5Jul-2Aug	13Sep-11Oct
D06	Kings Creek	23Mar-20Apr	3Jul-31Jul	30Oct-31Oct
D06	McDiffett Creek	23Mar-20Apr	3Jul-31Jul	30Oct-31Oct
D07	Leconte Creek	15Mar-12Apr	30Jun-28Jul	12Oct-9Nov
D07	Walker Branch	9Mar-6Apr	1Jul-29Jul	19Oct-16Nov
D08	Mayfield Creek	5Mar-2Apr	29Jun-27Jul	31Oct-28Nov
D08	Black Warrior River	19Feb-19Mar	27Jun-25Jul	31Oct-28Nov
D08	Tombigbee River	22Feb-22Mar	26Jun-24Jul	2Nov-30Nov
D09	Prairie Lake	18Apr-16May	5Jul-2Aug	11Sep-9Oct
D09	Prairie Pothole	20Apr-18May	5Jul-2Aug	11Sep-9Oct
D10	Arikaree River	21Mar-18Apr	4Jul-1Aug	20Sep-18Oct
D11	Pringle Creek	17Feb-17Mar	29Jun-27Jul	23Oct-20Nov
D11	Blue River	7Mar-4Apr	1Jul-29Jul	12Oct-9Nov
D12	Blacktail Deer Creek	1May-29May	13Jul-10Aug	30Aug-27Sep
D13	Como Creek	20May-17Jun	14Jul-11Aug	30Aug-27Sep
D13	West St. Louis Creek	2May-30May	5Jul-2Aug	3Sep-1Oct
D14	Sycamore Creek	12Jan-11Feb	24Mar-23Apr	3Jun-3Jul
D15	Red Butte Creek	29Mar-26Apr	6Jul-3Aug	29Sep-27Oct
D16	McRae Creek	10Apr-8May	11Jul-8Aug	23Sep-21Oct
D16	Martha Creek	6Apr-4May	5Jul-2Aug	22Sep-20Oct
D17	Teakettle 2 Creek	14Apr-12-May	8Jul-5-Aug	23Sep-21Oct
D17	Upper Big Creek	14Apr-12-May	8Jul-5-Aug	23Sep-21Oct
D18	Oksrukuyik Creek	21May-18Jun	29Jun-27Jul	7Aug-4Sep
D18	Toolik Lake	21May-18Jun	29Jun-27Jul	6Aug-3Sep
D19	Caribou Creek	2May-30May	26Jun-24Jul	18Aug-15Sep

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APPENDIX H SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION: HABITAT AND SAMPLER RECOMMENTATIONS

For more information see the Site Specific Sampling Strategy Document on NEON's FOPS intranet site.

Domain	Site	Habitat 1	Habitat 2	Biomass sampler
D01	Hop Brook	Riffle	Pool	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D02	Lewis Run	Riffle	Run	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D02	Posey Creek	Riffle	Pool	10 cm x 10 cm quadrat (mini)
D03	Flint River	Littoral		rake
D03	Lake Barco	Littoral		rake
D03	Lake Suggs	Littoral		floating vegetation sweep
D04	Rio Guilarte	Riffle	Pool	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D04	Rio Cupeyes	Riffle	Run	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D05	Crampton Lake	Littoral		rake
D05	Little Rock Lake	Littoral		rake
D06	Kings Creek	Riffle/run	Pool	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D06	McDiffett Creek	Riffle/run	Short reach, no habitat 2	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D07	Leconte Creek	Riffle	Pool	10 cm x 10 cm quadrat (mini)
D07	Walker Branch	Riffle/run	Riffle/run	10 cm x 10 cm quadrat (mini)
D08	Mayfield Creek	Riffle	Run	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D08	Black Warrior River	Littoral		rake
D08	Tombigbee River	Littoral		rake
D09	Prairie Lake	Littoral		rake
D09	Prairie Pothole	Littoral		0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat for rooted littoral vegetation
D10	Arikaree River	Run	Pool/Run	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D11	Pringle Creek	Riffle	Run	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D11	Blue River	Run	Riffle	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D12	Blacktail Deer Creek	Riffle	Run	10 cm x 10 cm quadrat (mini)
D13	Como Creek	Riffle	Pool/Step pool	10 cm x 10 cm quadrat (mini)
D13	West St. Louis Creek	Riffle	Riffle/run	10 cm x 10 cm quadrat (mini)
D14	Sycamore Creek	Run	Pool	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D15	Red Butte Creek	Run	Step pool	10 cm x 10 cm quadrat (mini)
D16	McRae Creek	Riffle/Step pool	Run/Step pool	10 cm x 10 cm quadrat (mini)
D16	Martha Creek	Riffle	Pool	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D17	Teakettle 2 Creek	TBD	TBD	10 cm x 10 cm quadrat (mini)
D17	Upper Big Creek	TBD	TBD	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D18	Oksrukuyik Creek	Run	Riffle	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat
D18	Toolik Lake	Littoral		rake
D19	Caribou Creek	Run	Riffle	0.5 x 0.5 m quadrat

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APPENDIX I PAPER DATASHEET EXAMPLES

See also RD[05] for blank paper datasheets.

I.1 Transect establishment datasheet example

NEON Aquatic Plant/Macroalgae Field Data Sheet - TRANSECT ESTABLISHMENT						
Site ID: <u>CUPE</u>			Sampling protocol: <u>NEON.DOC.003039</u> Rev: <u>B</u>			
Date: <u>2016-10-04</u>			Recorded by: <u>sparker@battelleecology.org</u>			
Local time: <u>10:30</u>			Collected by: <u>jstewart@Field-ops.org</u>			
Wadeable streams						
Named location	Transect ID	Plot marker bank (R or L)	Latitude	Longitude	Coordinate uncertainty (m)	Remarks
01 - Aquatic Plant Transect	T1	R	18.06822	-66.59198	0.34	
02 - Aquatic Plant Transect	T2	R	18.06865	-66.59177	1.02	
03 - Aquatic Plant Transect	T3	R	18.06889	-66.59181	0.25	
04 - Aquatic Plant Transect	T4	R	18.06935	-66.59202	0.21	

I.2 Wadeable stream quadrat sampling datasheet example

NEON Aquatic Plant/Macroalgae Field Data Sheet - QUADRAT SAMPLING								
Site ID: <u>ARIK</u>			Sampling protocol: <u>NEON.DOC.003039</u> Rev: <u>C</u>					
Date: <u>2017-09-27</u>			Recorded by: <u>sparker@battelleecology.org</u>					
Local time: <u>14:30</u>			Collected by: <u>jstewart@Field-ops.org</u>					
Quadrat ID	Sampling impractical	Quadrat type	Habitat type	Target taxa present	Streams Dominant growth form	Sample collected?	Field ID	# bags per sample
Q10	location dry	Remarks: run completely dry during sampling bout						
Q9		quadrat, benthic	pool	yes	emergent	yes	ARIK.20170927.quadrat.Q9	2
Q8		quadrat, benthic	run	no		no		
Q7		quadrat, benthic	pool	no		no		
Q6		quadrat, benthic	pool	yes	emergent	yes	ARIK.20170927.quadrat.Q6	1

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I.3 Wadeable stream transect sampling datasheet example. Note that T9, point 3 has two entries under the point.

NEON Aquatic Plant/Macroalgae Field Data Sheet - POINT TRANSECT												
Site ID: <u>ARIK</u>						Sampling protocol: <u>NEON.DOC.003039</u> Rev: <u>C</u>						
Date: <u>2017-09-27</u>						Recorded by: <u>sparkers@battelleecology.org</u>						
Local time: <u>14:30</u>						Collected by: <u>jstewart@Field-ops.org</u>						
Wadeable streams												
Transect ID	Sampling impractical	Habitat type	Point number	Transect distance (m)	Target taxa present	Macroalgae or plant	Taxon ID or Morphospecies ID	Morphospecies ID remarks	Substrate (if no plant under point)	Growth form	Sample collected	Sample ID
T10	location dry	Remarks: location dry at time of sampling										
T9		pool	1	0.05	no							
T9		pool	2	0.10	yes	macroalgae	macroalgae1	bright green		S	yes	ARIK.20170927.macroalgae1.T9
T9		pool	3	0.15	yes	plant	LEMNA			FF	no	
T9		pool	3	0.15	yes	plant	SPEU			E	no	
T9		pool	4	0.20	no							

I.4 Lake and river rake sampling datasheet example

NEON Aquatic Plant/Macroalgae Field Data Sheet - RAKE SAMPLING											
Site ID: <u>BARC</u>						Sampling protocol: <u>NEON.DOC.003039</u> Rev: <u>C</u>					
Date: <u>2017-09-27</u>						Recorded by: <u>sparkers@battelleecology.org</u>					
Local time: <u>10:15</u>						Collected by: <u>jstewart@Field-ops.org</u>					
Lakes and Rivers											
Sampling Impractical	Point number	Decimal Latitude	Decimal Longitude	Coordinate uncertainty (m)	Sample type	Sample depth (m)	Target taxa present	Dominant growth form	Sample collected	Field ID	# bags per sample
	P1	29.690443	-82.016842	4.2	rake	5.2	yes	FF	yes	BARC.20170927.rake.P1	1
	P2	29.680187	-82.014522	15.2	rake	2.3	yes	FF	yes	BARC.20170927.rake.2	3
	P3	29.680045	-82.014123	5.4	rake	2.3	no		no		

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I.5 Domain lab processing – dry mass and AFDM datasheet example

NEON Aquatic Plant, Bryophyte, and Macroalgae Lab Data Sheet								
Date analysis started: 2016-10-18			Identified by: <u>sparker@battelleecology.org</u>					
Time analysis started: 9:45			Recorded by: <u>sparker@battelleecology.org</u>					
Field sample ID	Plant type	Taxon ID	Morphospecies ID	Identification qualifier	Identification references	Sent for taxonomic ID?	Plant sample ID	Sent for CN analysis?
ARIK.20141004.quadrat.Q7	plant	SPEU			Haddock et al. 2015	no	ARIK.20161004.SPEU.Q7	yes
ARIK.20141004.quadrat.Q7	macroalgae		macroalgae1			yes	ARIK.20161004.macroalgae1.Q7	no
ARIK.20141004.quadrat.Q7	plant		poaceae1	cf. family		no	ARIK.20161004.poaceae1.Q7	yes