

Equipment List for a Freshwater Species & Habitat Survey

Basic Equipment

Vital Signs datasheet: Species & Habitat Survey: Freshwater Habitats

Note: If you plan to look for more than 2 species, print additional Species pages

Vital Signs species identification cards for each of the species you plan to look for

 Note: If we do not have a species card yet for the species you want to look for, bring an appropriate identification guide with you. Then tell us you want a card, pronto.

Camera with charged batteries

Ruler to measure plant/ animal/ insect parts and to show scale in evidence photographs

GPS unit with charged batteries (or a map with latitude & longitude lines)

Extra batteries

Water quality testing tools to measure:

- pH
- Temperature
- Dissolved oxygen (If you are using ampoules to measure dissolved oxygen, bring a plastic bottle to collect the sharps)

Clipboard

Extra pencil

First aid kit

A field work buddy, or someone at home who knows where you're going, for how long, and when to expect you back

Sampling Method Equipment

You may need additional equipment depending on the sampling method you choose to use. Find your preferred sampling method below to see what else you need.

Quadrat (user-placement)

1m2 quadrat

Quadrat (randomized-placement)

Transect line
Random number chart
1m2 quadrat

Transect

Transect line

Random number chart or online generator

Time search

Cones or old shoes or sticks to clearly mark off your search area

Dock

Transect line

Ruler

Weed weasel

Weed weasel for submersed aquatic plants

Trap

Minnow trap modified to catch crayfish

Small cooler with ice

Net

Kicknet for macroinvertebrates & crayfish

Field work buddies – it's tough to go it alone with a kicknet

Waders or water shoes

Small cooler with ice

Trays for sorting macroinvertebrates

Bucketscope

Bucketscope for seeing underneath the water

Team Protocol Equipment

This is most (perhaps only) useful for teachers who are leading and managing teams of students.

Specialists

- Specialist role cards (label by team and team member)
- List of teams and team members that includes roles, species assignments, equipment responsibilities, usernames & passwords

Small team

 Team lists that include team members, team species assignments, equipment responsibilities, usernames & passwords

Big group

 List of individuals that includes individual species assignments, equipment responsibilities, usernames & passwords

Seasonal Equipment

Bug spray

Sun screen

Sun hat

Warm layer

Rain gear