

Realities of Sampling for Small Trusts ChemCatchers[®] & FIO Sampling

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Realities of FIO Sampling

Applications

- Identification of Faecal Indicator Organisms in water. Commonly *E.coli* & Intestinal *enterococci*
- Freshwater and Marine
- Sampling in estuarine locations – Ensure that samples are taken with/without impact of tide.
- Great for identification of overall issues at a large spatial scale. But, dilution can compound problems. (Sub-catchment studies)
- Effectiveness can be improved at small sites with definite input/output locations. Wetlands ETC.

Good data come at a cost

- Sample Costs - £36/sample (NLS) + courier costs and bottle delivery
- Staff Costs – One sampling event (10-12 locations) might take a full day for two staff.
- Start Early? No – Samples must be taken from ~10:30 onward to ensure that they arrive prior to the 24 hr stability deadline
- Seven days a week? – Samples cannot be taken on Friday, Saturday or Sunday
- Ancillaries – Storage Boxes, Sample pole (or 6ft Litter Picker), sample bucket, portable electronic cool box, PPE, First Aid
- Paperwork – Initially difficult but does get easier – print repeatable information to save time!

Tips

- Organisation is crucial
- Train a minimum of two staff to take samples
 - Ensure that they are aware of risks, sampling protocols and submission procedures
- Ensure that labels, sample recording form and hazard forms are prepared. Take a picture of each form prior to despatch with courier – paperwork is easy to lose!
- Ensure that bottles are correct – don't order more bottles than you need. 6 weeks worth is enough
- Accessible sites are the best (not always possible)
- Get to know a reliable contact at your lab