

Standard Operating Procedures

#AU 0025 Seine Net Handling Procedure

Materials:

First aid kit
Waders
Flotation vest
Cell phone
Change of clothes
Seine net

Prevention/Precaution:

Before travelling to any field sites for the day, the Principal Investigator/Team Leader must be notified

that you will spend the day in the field and which sites you plan to visit. You must also notify the Principal Investigator/Team Leader when you have returned from the field. When working in the field, always use the buddy system. When working around water, you have to wear a flotation vest. When you work in the water, you also need to wear a pair of waders. If you need to work in the water, the following rules must be observed:

- Do not wade through water that is deeper than your waist height and faster than 50 cm/sec.
- Do not wade through areas that are deep and/or the water is not transparent
- Observe common sense rules around water.

Review SOPs:

SOP 0009, SOP 0010, SOP 0011, SOP 0012, SOP 0015, SOP0016

Procedure:

The following procedure applies when the above prevention rules have been observed. If you slip or fall in shallow water, try to stand up right away. Wade out to the shore as soon as possible and change clothes. If you cannot stand up, do not fight the current, float down river to a shallower area stand up and wade out to the shore. If you have been hurt during the fall, have your co-worker assess the extent of damage. Small cuts and bruises can be attended on site with the help of a first aid kit. If the extent of damage is larger, keep the affected person comfortable on the shore, dial 911 from a cell phone and wait for the arrival of emergency personnel. Inspect the site to be seine netted and make careful note of water conditions, potential danger zones and type of substrate. Do not seine net in water that is more than waist deep, or areas that have large woody debris in the water (e.g. large tree trunks, submerged large branches etc.). Two students/crew members will handle the seine net by the end poles with the lead line on the bottom and the floats on the top. One person will walk into the lake or river until the net is fully extended, then both handlers will walk parallel with the shore until the whole sampling area is covered. Once the sampling session is over, the net is closed by bringing

the ends rapidly together and removing the net swiftly from the water to minimize the escape of fish. Fish will be removed carefully from the net and deposited in large containers containing freshwater from the habitat sampled for further processing.

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