6.2.5 PROTOCOL FOR SAMPLING FROM SHORE

Overview

Quality assurance and control measures (see appropriate Protocol) and safety issues (see appropriate Protocol) should be adhered to. The Protocol identifies how samplers should sample from the shore, where the sample should be collected, and how to minimize the potential for sample contamination when collecting a sample.

Sources

Environment Canada and B.C. WLAP (2005), Saskatchewan (Undated), B. C. WLAP (2003)

Special safety concerns

Ensure all safety policies are adhered to when sampling from shore, all appropriate safety gear should be worn (i.e. personal flotation device). In some cases, the sampler should also be tethered to either another person or a stable object.

At a glance

1 Sampling from shore is not applicable in lakes. A sample taken near the shore in a lake will not be representative of the entire lake system.

2 Often, it will not be practical to use a multi-sampler from shore due to the shallowness of the water. In such cases, use an extension rod that will hold the sample containers. When using a sampling rod, ensure to rinse the clamp end of the rod in the stream to reduce possible contamination from a previous site.

3 If the laboratory requires bottles to be pre-rinsed, this should preferably be done at a site slightly downstream from the actual sample location, this prevents contaminants from entering the actual sample bottle.

4 When sampling from shore, always collect water samples facing upstream, this ensures that any contaminants on the sampler do not flow into the sample container. Fill individual bottles one at a time by uncapping the bottle immediately before sampling.

5 When sampling from a rocky outcrop, ensure that the multi-sampler or any type of physical sampler is submerged and the bottles are completely filled.

sample away from bank

6 Sample into the current, away from the stream bank. If for some reason the water body appears to be stationary, submerge the bottle beneath the surface away from the sample location until it is filled. Stationary water bodies should be avoided when sampling, they do not provide a complete sample of the environment.

Other sources

ISO (2008 a), Environment Canada Undated (a), Ontario Ministry of the Environment (2006), Newfoundland and Labrador Environment and Conservation (1999).