

Workshop: Overview of DEP SOPs for Surface Water Sampling

Joy Jackson and Evelyn Becerra
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Who: This training is intended for anyone who collects or plans to collect water quality data from Florida surface waters and provide those data to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

What: This workshop will give participants an overview of the DEP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) within the DEP Quality Assurance Rule (62-160, F.A.C) and teach them how to collect and preserve surface water samples in accordance with DEP SOPs. The class will also provide instruction in the proper calibration and verification of field instruments used to measure common field-testing parameters in water samples (pH, DO, conductivity). The course consists of a classroom session to review the relevant SOPs and perform instrument calibrations and verifications, and a hands-on segment outdoors for sample collection. Questions and discussion about “real-world” scenarios encountered in the field are welcomed. Feel free to bring your field sheets and meter calibration sheets if you have questions about whether or not they satisfy DEP documentation requirements.

Topics to be covered include:

- General quality assurance considerations (SOPs FA 1000, FC 1000, FM 1000)
- Documentation requirements (SOP FD 1000)
- Surface water sampling, including use of equipment (SOPs FS 1000, FS 2000, FS 2100)
- Quality control samples (FQ 1000)
- Field testing procedures, including calibration and verification of meters (SOP FT 1000)

NOTE: Please bring your field testing meter and calibration standards, if possible. Instructors will only have supplies for one instrument.

Why: Resource managers and consultants that wish their data to be evaluated by DEP for the assessment of Water Quality Standards, including Numeric Nutrient Standards, must comply with the SOPs and QA requirements, and also must understand the context in which the data will be interpreted, so that the data can be used appropriately.

About the Instructors: Joy Jackson is an Environmental Manger in the DEP Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance Section within the Water Quality Standards Program. Joy focuses on bioassessment, quality assurance, and water quality standards development aimed at better management and protection of Florida’s surface waters. Evelyn is an Environmental Consultant in the DEP Water Evaluation and TMDL Program, focusing on statewide, basin-scale assessments of surface water quality and TMDL development and assists with technical reviews, model evaluation for mixing zones and other department needs.