

SIMPLE DATA PROTOCOL FOR TRASH CAPTURE DEVICES (TCD)

Purpose: This protocol is intended to collect the bare minimum amount of data necessary to estimate the amount of anthropogenic litter diverted from any aquatic waterbody using any type of trash capture device. Ensure you are maintaining your device as recommended by the company. For example, it is recommended that Seabins be emptied daily, whereas LittaTraps are to be emptied out 1 – 2 times a year. Follow this protocol based on the requirements of your device. **If you have a cellphone or tablet, download the Data Trapper App on Google Play or the App Store, free of charge, to easily record and submit your data!**

NOTE:

- *This protocol was developed for Seabins, and has been tested and used with a LittaTrap. We hope this protocol can be used, and adapted if needed, for other types of TCDs. We would be happy to advise on how if relevant to your situation.*
- *We do not expect to see animals in a TCD, but if you find any live animals in your TCD place them back into the water safely. If you come across any that are dead, please note it down on the datasheet and keep a record of the species (if possible) and count. If you encounter this more than once, consider moving your device to another area to avoid an impact to aquatic organisms.*

Safety Notes:

- If your device is situated along the water, put on your life-jacket.
- If your device has an external energy source, check if the power needs to be OFF prior to collecting the debris from the device. If left on it may damage and clog the pump inside the device.
- When retrieving the device from the water you may need a tool to help bring it to ashore, we recommend an extension pole or pike pole.
- We recommend wearing gloves to remove the waste from the bin.
- If dangerous materials are found dispose of it with care; e.g., a used syringe should be placed in a Sharps Container.

Materials:

- Trash Scale (luggage scale)
- Gloves
- This protocol
- Data Trapper App
- Clipboard (unless using the app)
- Datasheets on waterproof paper (unless using the app)
- Pencil or Fine-tip Sharpie (unless using the app)
- Camera or cell phone camera (if using app, you'll take a picture with the same device your app is on)
- Garbage bags

Directions:

- In the Data Trapper app (or paper datasheet if you don't have the app), fill out your name, the location, date and time at which the TCD was activated and removed.
- Mark whether the TCD captured a "wet event" during deployment (to be considered a wet event, the amount of rainfall must be > 10mm over a 24h period).
- On the datasheet tick off the weather conditions.
- On site, if your TCD is externally powered, turn off the power to ensure no damage to the device while removing it.

- If necessary, use an extension pole and remove the component of the device that captures all the debris.
- When removing the contents from your device, shake out as much water as possible.
- Next, weigh the debris caught from your device using a trash scale. Record the weight in the Data Trapper App or paper datasheet.
- Record how full your device is (full to the brim, half full, quarter full).
- Take a picture of the contents caught in your device, and ensure it clearly indicates how full the device is.
- Dispose of items from your device according to your organization.
- Place the device back into the water and if applicable turn the power back on.
- If you are not using the app, please take a picture of the datasheet and send it together with pictures of the contents of the catch bag to: trashtrapnetwork@gmail.com.