

SAMPLING WITH THE MICRO-TRAWL

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- SUPboard + paddle
- Extra piece of rope of about 1m
- Stopwatch, watch or phone

WHAT IS A SAMPLE?

Sampling means you are investigating a small part of something. It's impossible to search the entire river for plastics. Instead, you pick a part of the river (1 kilometer for instance) where you apply a set method to investigate that part of the water. The things you collect in that piece of water, you call a *sample*.

Other examples of sampling are filling a bottle of water in the river and taking it to a lab to analyze it, or picking (parts of) plants to look at them later under a microscope.

PREPARATION

1. Put the SUP-board in the water.
2. Tie an extra rope of about 1m to the end of the three tied together ropes.
3. Sit down or kneel on your SUP and tie the other end of the 1m rope to the ring at the end of the board.
4. Put the micro-trawl in the water and make sure that the top of the trawl (the side with the two holes) floats upward. Pull the tiewraps tight, just to be sure.



SAMPLING

1. Start supping and check whether the micro-trawl follows smoothly.
2. The micro-trawl is floating well if:
 - it doesn't disappear under the water surface and floats well on the two bottles (the wings).
 - The water is up until about halfway the soup can (only the lower half of the can is submerged)
3. Sup for about 30 minutes, preferably in a straight line and without pauses. You can do it longer or shorter, but as long as you keep close track of the time you spend sampling. Use a (stop)watch or phone to do so.
4. **-Watch out!:** make sure the trawl doesn't fall apart, you don't want to leave behind trash!
-Watch out!: if there are many floating plants or algae, the trawl will fill up quicky and you'll have to stop early (to make sure the panty hose doesn't break).
-Watch out!: the longer you sup, the more chance you have at finding microplastics.
5. End your route and detach the micro-trawl from the rope.



RECORDING DATA

It's important to always write down all the information when taking samples with the trawl. Without this information it is hard to make conclusions about the data. Always write down the following things, ideally in the same place, for instance a note book or an Excel file:

- a. How long have you been supping? (in minutes)
- b. What day is it (date), and at what time did you start supping (start time)?
- c. Where did you start supping? The best way to write this down is using the exact GPS location. It is more accurate than a home adress.
- d. Where did you stop? Write down the GPS location of the end point.
- e. Take a picture of the (full) micro-trawl after supping.

