

Sites:

- Samplers can be attached to docks, buoys or other stationary platform. Care should be taken that the samplers remain submerged at all times during deployment.
- Choose sites at least 20 feet from boat channels, with low or moderate tidal currents.
- Know water depth at low and high tide. Depth at low-low tide should be at least 3 feet.

Equipment:

- Metal cage with thumb screws, attachment hook/carabiner/rope and a set of EVA-coated collecting plates supplied by UConn
- Half cinder block or other anchoring device
- 0.5" line, sized to fit in the anchoring holes on the cage bar. For each site, start with a length of line equal to the depth of the water at high tide plus 1 to 2 meters of slack line to avoid dragging.
- Marker buoy
- Buoy tender
- Laminated sign, 5 x 8": "UConn-"your organization" Research Project/Do Not Remove"
- Cooler with freezer pack containing plastic bag of foil-wrapped fresh plates and aluminum foil squares with labels for retrieved plates

Installation Procedure:

1. Tie one end of a line to the buoy. Fasten the top of the cage to the line so that the distance between the buoy and the top of the cage is no more than one foot.
2. Run the line through the anchoring holes in the cage and tie another knot at the bottom of the cage to secure it. Tie the free end of the line to the cinder block so that the length between cage bottom and block equals the depth of the water at high tide plus at least 1 meter.
3. Make sure all knots are secure, the buoy floats freely, and the cage is below the surface.
4. Attach the sign to the buoy tender and tie the tender to the buoy.

**Plate Installation and Retrieval:**Supplies:

- Baggie containing fresh plates plus their accompanying aluminum foil squares for storage after retrieval
- Marker pen
- Cooler with freezer pack

Installation of Fresh Plates:

To avoid damaging the EVA coating, always handle the plates by the sides and avoid touching the plate surface.

1. Pull the sampler cage and buoy into the boat. Loosen the black thumbscrew at the top of the cage bar; do not remove it completely. Remove "Plate A" from its foil wrapping and slip it into the slot so that its hole is aligned with the screw; tighten securely. Repeat with plates B and C.

The plates are positioned in the cage with plate A at the top of the water column, then Plate B, then Plate C nearest the sediment... "A for Above"

2. Submerge the cage, making sure the buoy, cage, and buoy tender all float freely with no entangling line.
3. Before leaving the site, remove from the storage baggie the aluminum foil squares in which the plates will be stored after retrieval. Write the **site name** and **installation date** on the labels of all three foil squares.

Plate Retrieval after 1-2 weeks or designated time:

1. Pull the sampler cage and buoy into the boat. Remove the top collecting plate (Plate A) by unscrewing the black thumbscrew; do not remove the screw completely.
2. Using tweezers or your fingernails, gently remove any macro algae or critters from the plate, taking care not to scrape or otherwise damage the plate coating. Leave in place anything that cannot be readily pulled off or rinsed off with sea water, including any gelatin-like coatings.
3. Wrap the plate in one of the aluminum foil squares provided, which has already been labeled with the site and the installation date. Write "A" on the label, plus the **retrieval date**.
4. Once all plates are removed, wrapped and labeled, check each label for site name, replicate designation (A, B, or C), installation date, and retrieval date. Place the plates in the original baggie and store in the cooler.
5. Install fresh plates as described in "Installation of Fresh Plate) steps 1-4.
6. Store retrieved plates in your freezer until they are delivered to the UConn lab for analysis. Important: Write up any difficulties encountered, as well as observations about the appearance of the plates or apparatus, and place this note in the baggie with the plates.