



SECCHI DISK TRANSPARENCY



Quick Reference Procedure Checklist

Please Note

This document is an abbreviated form of the full Secchi Disk Transparency Procedures. We recommended that you read the full procedures at least once during the beginning of each field season. Full procedures are found in the CLMP Manual found here: <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/clmp-documents/>

Equipment Checklist

- Boating safety equipment and anchor
- Copy of full procedures or this quick reference procedure checklist
- Data sheet
- Pencil or indelible ink pen
- Secchi disk and measured line



Data Collection

A. Sampling location, frequency, and timing

- 1. Take a reading every week or every other week according to the dates on the data sheet.
- 2. 8 readings spread evenly throughout the summer is the minimum expected effort; more is better.
- 3. It is best to measure transparency at the same time each week, sometime between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on a sunny, calm day.

B. Proceed to your monitoring location

C. Prepare for monitoring

- 1. When in position, fill out the data sheet (Lake Name, County, Date, Field ID #, etc.).

D. Making the Secchi disk measurement

- 1. Take reading over the shaded side of the boat.
- 2. Do not wear sunglasses or a use a viewscope.
- 3. Lower Secchi disk until it disappears from sight; note depth.
- 4. Raise the Secchi disk until it reappears; note depth.

- 5. Calculate the average of the two depths and record this on the data sheet as the final reading.
- 6. If the Secchi disk rests on the lake bottom during measurement, record the depth and write “on bottom” on your data sheet.

Reporting Your Results

Deadline: October 31.

1. If you can, **please enter your data into the MiCorps Data Exchange found at MiCorps.net.**
 - a. If you are unable to enter your own data into the MiCorps Data Exchange, MiCorps staff will enter your data for you after we receive a copy of your data sheets in the mail or via email at MiCorps@msu.edu.
2. **Whether you entered your data online or not, mail or email a copy of your data sheet at the end of the season.**

Mail a copy to:

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 303
Long Lake, MI 48743

For electronic submission, send to: MiCorps@msu.edu

All data must be entered into the database and the copies mailed or emailed no later than October 31st.

Questions?

Contact: Jean Roth, jean.roth@mymlsa.org, 989-257-3715 or Erick Elgin, elgineri@msu.edu, 218-340-5731