

Southeast Coast Network

National Park Service
Inventory and Monitoring Division



Standard Operating Procedure 1.2.20

Park-wide Assessment Field Season Closeout—Version 1.0

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Summary

This standard operating procedure (SOP) outlines procedures to be completed after fieldwork associated with the park-wide assessment of estuarine water and sediment quality. The purpose of this SOP is to ensure that the field team closes out the field season and leaves equipment and materials in working order for the following season. The procedures outlined in this SOP are based on five years of SECN protocol implementation.

Revision Log

Revision Date	Author	Changes Made	Reason for Change	New Version #

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Park-wide Assessment Activities and Workflow Summary

An overview of park-wide assessment activities and workflow are presented in Figure 1. SOPs are presented left to right in the general order of operations for each activity. This SOP (1.2.20) pertains to the Post-Sampling activity.

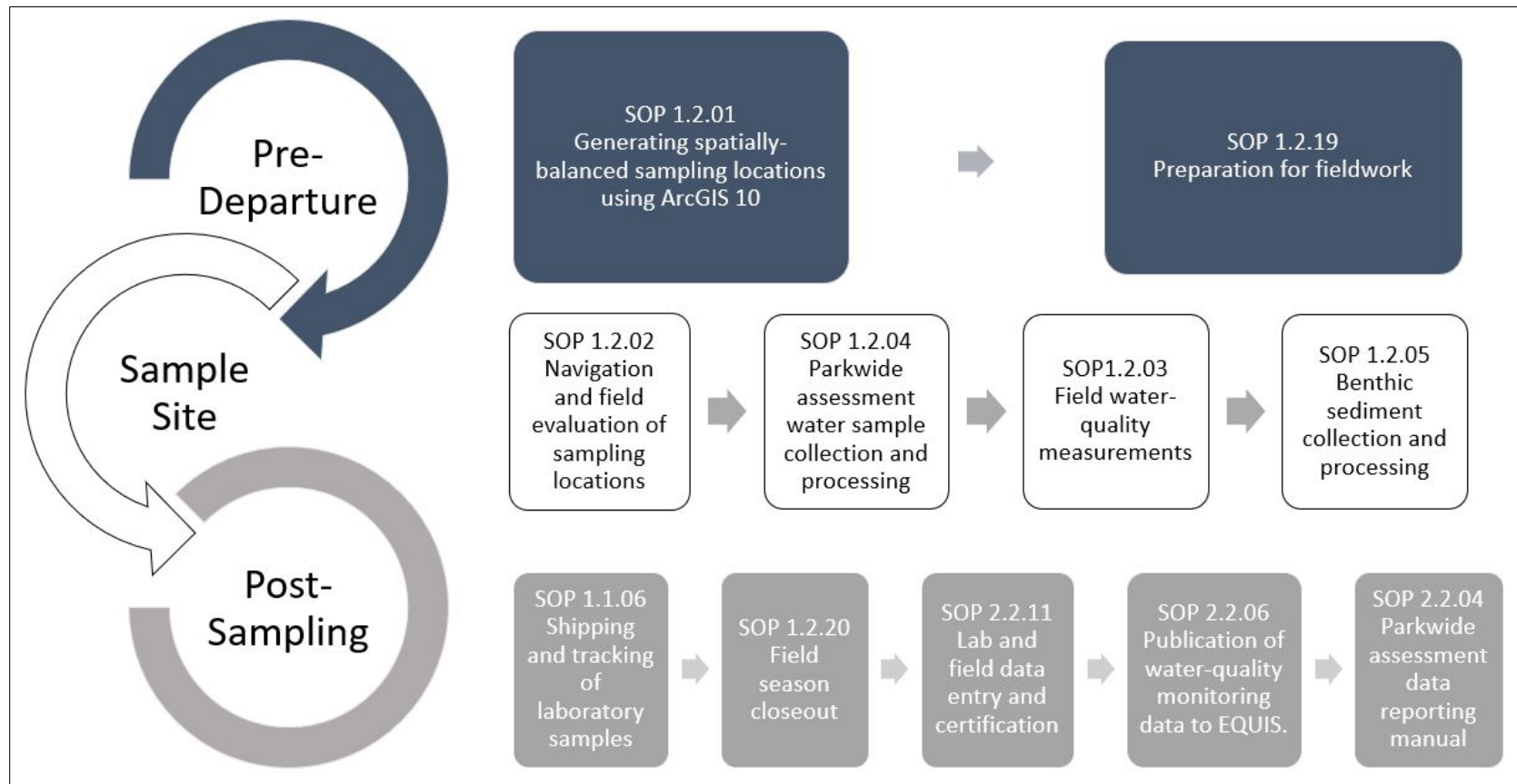


Figure 1. Park-wide assessment activities and workflow. SOPs are presented left to right in the general order of operations for each activity.

Overview

Fieldwork for the assessment of water and sediment quality requires the use of equipment and materials that may not be used throughout the remainder of the year. It is important to leave all equipment clean, organized, and ready for use the following field season. Proper preventative maintenance and care of equipment simplifies preparation for the following season. This SOP presents the general procedures completed at the end of the field season (i.e., all sample site activities [Figure 1] are finished). Overall, equipment is cleaned, dried, and stored with other park-wide assessment equipment. Water sampling equipment such as the Secchi disk and water sampler are cleaned and dried but are used on a regular basis as part of fixed station water-quality monitoring.

Procedures

These procedures assume the boat and sampling equipment specific to park-wide assessment of water-quality will not be used again for at least six months.

Boat and Installed Equipment

1. Run the motor in freshwater for 10–15 minutes.
2. Wash the following with a pressure washer to remove salt and sediment buildup.
 - a. Boat (inside and out)
 - b. Boat motor (exterior)
 - c. Trailer
 - d. Sediment winch/crane
 - e. Sediment processing table
 - f. Sediment sampler (Ponar) and line
3. Remove the sediment sample processing table and winch from the boat.
4. Grease wheel hubs and the pedestal for the sediment crane.
5. Take the boat to a marine mechanic so the motor can be professionally winterized.
6. Remove deep cycle batteries and store them in a temperature-controlled environment on a trickle charger.
7. Park the boat in a secure location (preferably covered).
8. Place the cloth boat cover over the boat and secure with bungee cords.

Washdown Station

1. Fill a bucket or sink with freshwater.
2. Connect the washdown station to a power source (12V battery inverter).
3. Place the intake hose in the freshwater and attach the spray nozzle to the output hose.
4. Turn on the washdown station and allow it to circulate water for approximately 10 minutes.
5. When the washdown station is thoroughly rinsed, disconnect and drain all hoses.
6. If the washdown station is equipped with a filter screen, remove it and rinse debris.
7. Wipe down the outside of the unit, power cord, and any surfaces that came in contact with saltwater.
8. Let the washdown station air dry.
9. Store with the other park-wide assessment equipment.

Electronics

1. Wipe all electronics (e.g., GPS chart plotter, cameras, extension cords, chargers) with a clean damp cloth to remove any saltwater residue.
2. Allow electronics to air dry.
3. Remove batteries and store in the Athens headquarters “wet lab” electronics cabinet.

Coolers, Carboys and Sediment Pots

1. Drain and rinse all with freshwater.
2. Allow all to air dry.
3. Store on the shelf with other park-wide-assessment equipment.

All Other Equipment

All other equipment specific to park-wide assessment needs to be clean and free of salt deposits before it is stored. All park-wide assessment equipment and gear are stored together in the Athens headquarters “wet lab” to facilitate quick preparation for the next assessment.

File Box

1. Wipe down the file box and remove any saltwater deposits.
2. Re-organize if necessary.

Inventory Equipment Needs

At the end of the field season, while details are fresh in the minds of the field crew, write out a list of equipment that needs repair or replacement. Ideally, replacement equipment and non-perishable materials will be ordered quickly so they are on hand for the following year.