



**Please read and follow
attached procedures
EXACTLY!**

Indian River Lagoonwatch

3275 Dixie Highway NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905 Tel: 321-725-7775 Fax: 321-725-3554 E-mail: lagoonwatch@mrcirl.org

Dear Monitor,

We should like to thank in advance for your participation in our **2008 Quality Assurance (Q.A.)** testing initiative. As you are aware, **Q.A. testing is a requirement of your overall participation** in the *Indian River Lagoonwatch* program. We **cannot** report to the state any data that has not undergone Q.A. testing in accordance with the monthly blind sample and annual field testing program. The results of your tests are being used to measure the accuracy of your data and to ensure your chemicals have not deteriorated.

This envelope contains eight QA blind samples to take you through December 2008: four unknown pH samples (Numbered pH-45, pH-46, pH-47 and pH-48) and four unknown salinity samples (Numbered Sal-35, Sal-36, Sal-37 and Sal-38). “Unknown” Dissolved Oxygen (D.O) samples are to be obtained and prepared with the new capped plastic bottle as described in the enclosed procedure.

Please analyze these samples (preferably at the time you do your regular testing in the first week of the month) according to the following schedule, one sample only per month. Results should be reported to lagoonwatch@mrcirl.org. When reporting PLEASE use the following format:

1) Site Number 2) Your Name 3) Sample Number=XX (temperature and % saturation also if D.O.)

Q.A. Sample No.	Month to be Tested and Reported
Sal-35	January, 2008
D.O.	February, 2008
pH-45	March, 2008
Sal-36	April, 2008
D.O.	May, 2008
pH-46	June, 2008
Sal-37	July, 2008
D.O.	August, 2008
pH-47	September, 2008
Sal-38	October, 2008
D.O.	November, 2008
pH-48	December, 2008

If you have any questions, please call MRC at 321-725-7775 or (preferably) send an e-mail to: lagoonwatch@mrcirl.org. Thank you!

Indian River Lagoonwatch
2008 Quality Assurance (Q.A.) Testing Program

PLEASE READ

PROCEDURES FOR THE ANALYSIS OF Q.A. BLIND SAMPLES FOR 2008

Please follow the procedures below to analyze the Q.A. samples. Record your results on your monthly data form (for your records) and e-mail results to lagoonwatch@mcirl.org in the format shown on the letter. **Note: Some monitors have been successfully completing the blind sample Salinity and pH tests, but are omitting the (just as important) Dissolved Oxygen tests. The procedure described for D.O. is very statistically valid, so please perform the D.O. tests as well in accordance with the schedule shown.**

pH (Samples pH-45 (March), pH-46 (June), pH-47 (September) and pH-48 (December))

To measure the pH of the enclosed blind samples, run the same analysis you are using for your field samples with your LaMotte pH kit. Make sure that the tubes are very clean and have been rinsed well with distilled water ahead of the test. If your results exceed the upper or lower limits of your test kit comparitor (color cube), please note it in your report.

Salinity (Samples Sal-35 (January), Sal-36 (April), Sal-37 (July) and Sal-38 (October))

To measure the salinity of these samples, run the same analysis you are using for your field samples with your LaMotte salinity kit. Make sure that you take exactly 50 units (exactly 0.5 ml) of sample with no air bubbles and no drips on the outside of the plastic syringe.

Dissolved Oxygen (February, May, August and November)

Fill the supplied plastic bottle to the line marked (200 ml) with distilled water. (Use your regular distilled water supply that you use for refilling your distilled water squeeze bottles.) Allow the beaker to stand overnight for about 12 hours (or as close as possible) uncovered in a cupboard at room temperature and in the dark. (If you place alcohol your thermometer right next to the sample overnight you can use that reading instead of dipping as in the following paragraph. (Digital instant read thermometers can be dipped.))

After 12 hours (approximately), measure the temperature with a cleaned and distilled-water-rinsed thermometer and then re-cap the bottle and shake for about 30 seconds and then allow to stand for about one minute. Next, carefully pour the water from the plastic bottle to completely fill each of the two thoroughly cleaned D.O. water bottles from your kit so that there is no trapped air if you invert a capped bottle. Add the chemicals per the usual technique for the test and make sure that you very thoroughly shake the bottles after the first two chemicals have been added and then again after adding the sulfamic acid powder. *(Thorough shaking to complete the mixing of the sample is critical to getting an accurate test result.)*

Complete the titration test CAREFULLY and record your water temperature and the averaged D.O. result on your data form, calculate the % saturation and then e-mail the result to lagoonwatch@mcirl.org. If you snail mail in the results, record the D.O. result, temperature and % saturation in the spot allocated on the form.