



Flathead Lake Citizen Science Periphyton Biomass Study

Thank you for becoming a Citizen Scientist!!

Our goal with the FLCS Periphyton study is to understand the degree of variability in Periphyton biomass around Flathead Lake. This information will supplement and expand the Flathead Lake Monitoring program's measurements of Periphyton biomass at two sites for over 30 years.

There are THREE steps to collecting your Periphyton sample:

- 1) Pick your sample site at your location.
- 2) Pick your rocks.
- 3) Grab and bag your rocks.

Pick your sample site at your location:

The location you choose to collect your rocks is important. Choose a site that is relatively protected from unnatural disturbance. Areas that are used for swimming, launching boats, and playing fetch with the dog should be avoided. The area does not need to be perfectly undisturbed, but should not be an area of high traffic.

Pick your rocks:

The rocks you pick are important. The size should be between a golf ball and a softball in diameter. A racquetball is the perfect size. Smooth round rocks are best for quantification, but can be irregular if need be. Luckily, Flathead Lake has amazing rocks to choose from. Rocks with uniform algal coverage is ideal, but again need not be perfect. Rocks should be collected from a depth between your knee and your hip.

Grab, bag, and freeze your rocks:

Collect and individually bag 3 to 5 rocks. It is as simple as it sounds. Open your Whirl-Pak or Ziploc freezer bag, reach into the water and grab your rock, place it in the bag, and close the bag. Repeat 3 to 5 times. Put bags in a cooler and in the dark until you return home. Then, place them in your freezer in a box to keep them dark until we collect everyone's samples at the end of the summer. Alternatively, you can drop samples off at the Bio Station.

Flat head Lake Periphyton Yellow Bay - FLCS - GPS - Coords Rock 1 7/18/2020	Major Site Study Name Minor Site Replicate Location DATE
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