

Training needed to obtain Qualified Data Collector (QDC) status under Ohio's Volunteer Monitoring Program (VMP)*
Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water April 7, 2006

The table below identifies training available for people interested in obtaining status as a QDC. The training offered through Ohio EPA consists of:

- ▶ a week-long training session designed specifically for the stream habitat, fish and benthic macroinvertebrate specialities within the VMP; and
- ▶ an optional 1-day primary headwater habitat (PHWH) training session addressing the stream habitat assessment speciality for the headwater habitat evaluation index (HHEI) method.

In addition, a separate 2-day training opportunity is available through Ohio EPA addressing the stream habitat assessment speciality for the qualitative habitat evaluation index (QHEI) method.

Training is also offered through Health Water Health People (HWHP). HWHP is a program offering training sponsored by project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Ohio EPA is a sponsor for this program; see <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/hwhpohconnect.html> for more information. Any similar hands-on training program run by a national or regional educational association would also satisfy the requirement for Level 1 QDC status.

Chemical monitoring training is available through Ohio University's Voinovich Center (GVC). The Center periodically offers training in water quality assessment that may also be helpful to QDCs. That 2-3 day training discusses collection of water samples, measurement of flow (necessary to establish loading levels of pollutants), planning for watershed characterization, and data interpretation. The course includes classroom and field instruction. For more information, call Jennifer Bowman at (740) 597-3101.

X denotes a required training module for QDC status. R denotes a recommended training module, but not required under the regulations. O denotes optional training for the stream habitat assessment speciality for the HHEI method; those seeking QDC status for HHEI must also take training modules # 1-5 (and # 6T for large stream assessment, QHEI).

Training Category	Basic Principles	Habitat (Stream) Assessment			Biological Monitoring										Chemical Monitoring	
					Macroinvertebrate					Fish		Applied Use				
Training Offered Through:	HWHP	Ohio EPA													GVC	
Training Module #. See module description document		1, 2, 3	4, 5, 6T	11T	PHWH	8	9	10T	12T	16T	7	15T	13	14		
Length of Training (Hours)	8	8	8		6	4	2	2	2	4	8	4	4	4	24	
Credible Data Level, Specialization	Level 1, none	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Level 2, Habitat	-	X	X	-	O	-	-	-	-	-	-	R	R	-	
	Level 3, Habitat	-	X	X	X	O	-	-	-	-	-	-	R	R	-	
	Level 3, Fish	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	
	Level 2, Macroinvert	-	R	R	-	-	R	R	X	R	-	-	R	R	-	
	Level 3, Macroinvert	-	X	R	R	O	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	-
	Level 2, Chemical	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R
Level 3, Chemical	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R	

* Also known by the term Credible Data. All required training and testing is pursuant to Chapter 3745-4 of the Ohio Administrative Code.