

Stream Condition Index Training Program

SCI Training Process

1. Background Information
 2. **Field Training:**
 - a. Sampling Site Selection and System Classification
 - b. Appropriate Antecedent Hydrologic Conditions
 - c. Optimal Habitat Selection
 - d. Sampling Technique
 - e. Field Sorting as a Training Tool
 3. **Apprenticeship Program**
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1. Background Information

(<https://floridadep.gov/dear/bioassessment/content/bioassessment-training-evaluation-and-quality-assurance#sci>)

- Discuss Required SOPs, SCI 1000 and FT-3000 (SCI 1, HA 1)
- Discuss “Sampling and Use of the Stream Condition Index for Assessing Flowing Waters: A Primer”
- Give PowerPoint Presentation, “SCI Training Presentation”

2. Field Training

- Discuss if an SCI should be performed at the site- (SCI #2 and HA #2)
 - o Site selection must consider the purpose for sampling
 - o Determine if the system functioning as a stream
- b) Evaluate current water levels
 - o Students measure and flag 100 m section (SCI #3 and HA #3)
- c) Discuss and show productive habitats (SCI #7-9 and HA #4)
 - o Have students map habitat (SCI #5 and HA #4)
 - o Perform a Habitat Assessment (SCI #6 and HA # 6)
- d) Have students perform sweeps in all habitats
 - o Demonstrate proper sweeping technique in all habitats (SCI # 12-14)
 - o Both good & poor habitats should be swept
- e) Have students pick bugs from each sweep
 - o Compare sweeps in good habitat vs. poor habitat
 - o Note number of different species and total number of organisms in each sweep

3. Apprenticeship

- Students participate in a full SCI (20 sweeps) and HA at 10 different sites (SCI # 16 and HA # 7). The tenth site should be used to evaluate the knowledge and skills obtained at the previous 9 sites.
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SCI and Habitat Assessment (HA) numbers refer to the specific objectives listed in the training checklists (SCI 1000, FT 3000).