CT Lake Watch
Data Entry Instructions

This form is for approved CT Lake Watch volunteers who have been trained to collect this data by CT DEEP. If you have not been trained by CT DEEP, please send an email to DEEP.CTLakeWatch@ct.gov to request training.

Waterbody (required):
Begin typing to narrow down the list of waterbodies. This is a list of all the approved CT Lake Watch waterbodies. If you do not see your waterbody, please contact DEEP.CTLakeWatch@ct.gov.

If there are multiple sites on the waterbody, a list will appear of all the sites. Select the site in which measurements were taken. If you are unsure which site to select, please contact DEEP.CTLakeWatch@ct.gov for guidance.

Contact Information

Volunteer Name(s) or Initial(s) (required):
Enter the names or initials of all the volunteers who collected data. Separate names or initials with a comma (i.e., MC, JL).

Organization (if applicable):
If applicable, enter the name of the organization in which you are collecting data for.

Email (optional):
Enter the email address in which we can contact you if we have any questions about the data submitted.

Phone Number (optional):
Enter the phone number in which we can contact you if we have any questions about the data submitted.

Sample Data

Date and Time (required):
Enter the date and time that the sample was collected. IMPORTANT! Do not enter the date and time that you are filling out the form.

Were you able to collect temperature readings?
Select yes if you were able to collect air temperature and surface water temperature readings. Select no if you could not collect temperature data. An example of why you might not be able to collect temperature data is because the thermometer stopped working.

If you were able to collect temperature data and selected 'Yes', additional questions will appear.

Step 1 – Air Temperature (required):
Hold the thermometer over your head to measure air temperature. Wait for the thermometer to stabilize before taking the reading. Enter data to the nearest tenth (one decimal place (i.e., 21.3)). Select the appropriate unit of measurement in the next question below.

Air Temperature Unit (required):
Select the appropriate unit of measurement for the previous question, air temperature: Celsius (°C) or Fahrenheit (°F)

Step 2 – Surface Water Temperature (required):
Lower the thermometer approximately 1 foot into the water column. Wait for the thermometer to stabilize before taking the reading. Enter data to the nearest tenth (one decimal place (i.e., 17.8)). Select the appropriate unit of measurement in the next question below.

Water Temperature Unit (required):
Select the appropriate unit of measurement for the previous question, surface water temperature: Celsius (°C) or Fahrenheit (°F)

Temperature Measuring Device (required):
Select the type of measuring device that was used to record the temperature: thermometer or probe/sensor

Were you able to collect Secchi disk depth and total water depth measurements?
Select yes if you were able to collect Secchi disk depth and total water depth measurements. Select no if you could not collect depth data. Examples of why you might not be able to collect depth data is because the Sechi disk became detached from the metered line, or there was too much current to obtain an accurate measurement.

If you were able to collect depth data and selected 'Yes', additional questions will appear.

Step 3 – Secchi Disk Depth (required):
Lower the Secchi Disk into the water column until you can no longer see it. Pinch the metered line at the surface of the water to measure Secchi Disk depth. Enter data to the nearest tenth (one decimal place (i.e., 3.1)). Select the appropriate unit of measurement in the next question below.

Secchi Depth Unit (required):
Select the appropriate unit of measurement for the previous question, Secchi Disk Depth: meters (m) or feet (ft)

Secchi Disk on Bottom? (required):
Can you see all the way to the bottom? Select 'Yes' if you can see all the way to the bottom. Select 'No' if the Secchi Disk is not resting on the bottom.

Step 4 – Total Water Depth (required):
Lower the Secchi Disk into the water column until it reaches the bottom. Pinch the metered line at the surface of the water to measure total depth. Enter data to the nearest tenth (one decimal place (i.e., 6.8)). IMPORTANT! This value must be greater than or equal to the Secchi disk depth. It is not possible for the total water depth to be greater than the Secchi depth. Select the appropriate unit of measurement in the next question below.

Total Water Depth Unit (required):
Select the appropriate unit of measurement for the previous question, Total Water Depth: meters (m) or feet (ft)

Sampling Platform (required):
Where was the sample taken from? Ideally, the sample should be taken at the deepest part of the waterbody, which likely requires a boat. The options include boat/canoe, dock/pier, bridge, from shore or wading, or other.

Shady Side of Boat? (required):
Did you collect the measurements from the shady side of the boat? This is preferred, however sometimes it is not possible if the sun is directly overhead and there is no shady side available.

Did you collect additional water quality parameters with a probe or sensor? (optional):
Additional water quality parameters can include dissolved oxygen, conductivity, specific conductance, pH, turbidity, or chlorophyll. If you collected additional water quality parameters, please contact DEEP.CTLakeWatch@ct.gov to discuss how to submit this additional data.

Field Notes / Comments (optional):
Use this field to enter any additional field notes or comments that are relevant to your data collection.

Weather Conditions

Cloud Cover (required):
Using your best judgement, select the approximate amount of cloud cover at the time of sampling using the options provided:

- Clear (0-5%)
- Mostly Clear (6-24%)
- Mostly Sunny/Partly Cloudy (25-49%)
- Partly Sunny/Mostly Cloudy (50-69%)
- Mostly Cloudy (70-89%)
- Cloudy/Overcast (90-100%)
- Fog (objects approximately ½ mile away are obscured from view)

Light Conditions (required):
Using your best judgement, select the most appropriate light conditions at the time of sampling using the options provided:

- Bright, distinct shadows
- Cloudy-bright, no shadows
- Heavily overcast

Precipitation (required):
Select the most appropriate precipitation conditions at the time of sampling using the options provided:

- Clear/No Precipitation
- Rain
- Snow
- Hail
- Freezing Rain

Wind Conditions (required):
Select the most appropriate wind conditions at the time of sampling using the options provided:

- Calm
- Light
- Light to Breezy
- Breezy
- Windy
- Very Windy
- Strong

Water Surface Conditions (required):
Select the most appropriate water surface conditions at the time of sampling using the options provided:

- Completely calm
- Smooth or rippled to small wavelets
- Small waves, frequent whitecaps
- Moderate crested waves, many whitecaps

- Large wavelets, crests begin to break, few whitecaps
- Large waves, white foam crests everywhere, wind blown spray

Algae Observations (optional):

If you observed a potential cyanobacteria bloom, please use the EPA bloomWatch application to report. More information on EPA's bloomWatch can be found here:

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Observations (optional):

If you observed any Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), please use the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species (OAIS) interactive web application to report.

If you have any questions on sampling procedures or data entry, please contact DEEP.CTLakeWatch@ct.gov