



Otter Point Creek Environmental Survey

*An Interactive Exercise Combining Middle and High School
Class, Field and Laboratory Experiences*

- TO THE TEACHER: Post-visit –

Now that your students have completed their field experience, it is time to collect the final pieces of data, combine findings, complete the Water Quality Index Worksheet and complete the Final Report of Survey.

1) Fecal Coliform Test-Record result on the data record sheet (lab work)

Back in the classroom let the test for Fecal coliform sit at room temperature away from direct sunlight for three days. After three days, look for a color change to determine the presence or absence of fecal coliform. If the sample liquid is red or clear, then there is no fecal coliform present. If the sample liquid is brown or yellow or bubbly, then fecal coliform is present.

2) Optional Re-Suspension Experiment-

Have the students put approximately 2 TBSP of the mud sample in a clear two liter bottle filled with water. Cap the bottle and mix well to replicate re-suspension of sediment from boats or dredging. Set the bottle where it will not be disturbed and observe the number of days it takes for the sediment to fall to the bottom, or come out of suspension.

3)Final Report of Survey-

Back in the classroom please have the students complete the analysis and discuss how the data relates to the effects of the marina on the estuary. As a class, determine whether you approve or disapprove of the project based on all of the findings and fill out the Final Report Survey Form. If you have multiple classes you may send one form for each class. Remind the students that the findings should be based on fact but that individual student's recommendations will vary and they must work together to come to a consensus, as a real team of scientific experts must.

4) Please complete and mail or email the following forms to us at the address below.

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
Attn: Kriste Garman
700 Otter Point Road
Abingdon MD, 21009
ksgarman@harfordcountymd.gov

- Student Post-Trip Quiz
- Teacher Evaluation
- Final Report of Survey