

EIM Help – Freshwater Benthic Macroinvertebrate Data

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We only enter raw counts for each taxon into EIM - not density estimates or metric values because they are calculated values.

Generally, we only enter larvae counts, but if you collected nymphs or adults in your sample you can enter them too. However, you will need to include a Result Taxon Life Stage Code indicating their life stage.

When entering **Freshwater Benthic Macroinvertebrate** data into EIM, insert the following values in addition to the standard required fields:

- Field Activity Type (Column D): Enter **“Sample.”**
- Field Activity Area and UOM (Columns K & L): For example, kick area of **“8,” “Ft2.”**
- Field Activity Reference Point (Column M): Indicate if the sample was from a **Riffle, Pool, or Transect**
- Percent Sample Sorted (Column AN): For example, enter **“50”** if half the sample was sorted.
- Sample ID (Column R): Use your field ID's or create a unique ID for each of your samples.
- Sample Composite Flag (Column V): Enter **“Y”** if composited, **“N”** if not. If sample was a composite, you will also need to enter an additional result with a Result Parameter Name of **“Number of Benthic Samples in Composite.”**
- Sample Matrix (Column W): Enter **“Solid/Sediment.”**
- Sample Source (Column X): Enter **“Freshwater Taxonomy.”**
- Sample Method Code* (Columns AB – AE): There are four Sample Method Code fields available. Use the first one to indicate how the sample was collected. For example, **“D-FRAMEKICKNET500UM”** (be sure the mesh size is included in the code).
- Result Parameter Name (Column AS): Enter **“Number of Individual Organisms.”**
- Result Reported Value (Column AW): Enter the actual count for each taxon.
- Result Value UOM (Column AX): Enter **“Count.”**
- Result Lab Name* (Column BJ): Enter name of lab that identified and counted your taxa.
- Result Taxon Name* and Result Taxon TSN* (Column BM and BN): Enter the Taxonomic Name and the Taxonomic Serial Number (unless there is no TSN).
- Result Taxon Life Stage (Column BP): Indicate the life-stage if other than larvae (i.e. **“nymph”** or **“adult”**).

* For a current list of valid values, see the Reference Tables in the EIM Data Loader, Data Editor, or Database Search modules.