



Master Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]
Deployment Name	Deployment ID
Email	Phone
Notes	

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
1	Charging Checklist Complete	[]	[]	
2	Pre-Transport Checklist Complete	[]	[]	
3	Packing Checklist Complete	[]	[]	
4	Sample Prep Checklist Complete	[]	[]	
5	Pre-Deployment Checklist Complete	[]	[]	
6	Instrument Purge Checklist Complete	[]	[]	
7	Manual/Automated Deployment Checklist Complete	[]	[]	
8	Post-Deployment Checklist Complete	[]	[]	
9	Automated Rinse Checklist Complete	[]	[]	

Signature	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]



Charging Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Charging Ascension Instrument				
1	Plug black AC cable into charger	[]	[]	
2	Plug black AC cable into wall	[]	[]	
3	Ensure power LED is illuminated red	[]	[]	
4	Plug yellow end of instrument charging cable into charger	[]	[]	
5	Plug red end of instrument charging cable into Ascension	[]	[]	
6	Charge LED red when charging, green when fully charged	[]	[]	
NEVER LEAVE THE ASCENSION INSTRUMENT CHARGING UNATTENDED				
Charging Tether Spool				
1	Plug USB cable into USB port on side of tether spool	[]	[]	
2	Plug USB cable into computer or wall charger	[]	[]	
3	Ensure charge LED illuminated	[]	[]	
4	Charge LED orange when charging, green when fully charged	[]	[]	
NEVER LEAVE THE TETHER SPOOL CHARGING UNATTENDED				



Pre-Transport Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Before Transport by Air				
1	Deplete instrument battery to ~30% in fresh water rinse tank	[]	[]	
2	Power off instrument and ensure blue status LED is off	[]	[]	
3	Unplug fluidic channel fitting from flow meter intake	[]	[]	
4	Ensure all water drained from instrument by inverting	[]	[]	
5	Remove vent plug from bottom of pressure housing	[]	[]	
6	Insert Ascension instrument into carry case (Pump side up)	[]	[]	
7	Power off tether spool and ensure all status LEDs are off	[]	[]	
8	Insert tether spool into carry case	[]	[]	
9	Ensure all case latches engaged and locked x6	[]	[]	
10	Label case with UN Class 9 shipping label	[]	[]	
Before Transport by Ground				
1	Deplete instrument battery to ~80% in fresh water rinse tank	[]	[]	
2	Power off instrument and ensure blue status LED is off	[]	[]	
3	Unplug fluidic channel fitting from flow meter intake	[]	[]	
4	Ensure all water drained from instrument by inverting	[]	[]	
5	Remove vent plug from bottom of pressure housing	[]	[]	
6	Insert Ascension instrument into carry case	[]	[]	
7	Power off tether spool and ensure all status LEDs are off	[]	[]	
8	Insert tether spool into carry case	[]	[]	
9	Ensure all case latches engaged and locked x6	[]	[]	
10	Label case with UN Class 9 shipping label	[]	[]	



Packing Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Charging List				
1	Ascension instrument charged > 95%	[]	[]	
2	Tether spool charged > 95%	[]	[]	
3	Laptop charged > 95%	[]	[]	
Instrument Packing List				
1	Ascension instrument	[]	[]	
2	Tether spool & tether	[]	[]	
3	Charging kit	[]	[]	
4	Full set filter housings (QTY:)	[]	[]	
5	Spare set filter housings (QTY:)	[]	[]	
6	Full set white valve tubing (QTY:)	[]	[]	
7	Spare set white valve tubing (QTY:)	[]	[]	
8	Spare peristaltic pump tubing (QTY:)	[]	[]	
9	Dummy plug - tether port	[]	[]	
10	Dummy plug - charging port	[]	[]	
11	Vent port plug	[]	[]	
12	Purging tool (syringe and fitting adapter)	[]	[]	
13	Tether USB cable	[]	[]	
14	Pump exhaust tubing	[]	[]	
15	M4 service tool	[]	[]	
16	Molykote 44 Medium connector grease	[]	[]	
17	USB flash drive	[]	[]	
18	Rinse bucket	[]	[]	
19	Small zip ties	[]	[]	
Sample Supplies Packing List				
1	47mm Filter A (Type: Size: μm QTY:)	[]	[]	
2	47mm Filter B (Type: Size: μm QTY:)	[]	[]	
3	47mm Filter C (Type: Size: μm QTY:)	[]	[]	
4	Filter storage containers (QTY:)	[]	[]	
5	Tweezers	[]	[]	
6	Squirt bottle	[]	[]	
7	Flush cutters	[]	[]	
Deployment Documentation				
1	Checklist Package (Pre-deployment, Post-deployment, etc...)	[]	[]	



Sample Prep Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Housing Cleaning				
1	Disassemble filter housing into 3 separate parts	[]	[]	
2	Wash all parts in dilute bleach solution	[]	[]	
3	Move to clean area (laminar flow hood if possible)	[]	[]	
4	Rinse with distilled water using a squirt bottle	[]	[]	
5	Leave filter housing to sit and dry out fully	[]	[]	
Filter Installation				
1	Operate inside a clean space (laminar flow hood if possible)	[]	[]	
2	Put on new pair of clean gloves (latex, vinyl, nitrile, etc...)	[]	[]	
3	* Ensure white filter supports installed into housing	[]	[]	
4	* Ensure no moisture inside filter housing or intake tubing	[]	[]	
5	Using tweezers, retrieve filter and place into filter housing	[]	[]	
6	Note mesh size and housing label for entry into computer	[]	[]	
7	Install housing lid and tighten down housing retaining ring	[]	[]	
8	Ensure tight by wiggling top and bottom parts (no movement)	[]	[]	
9	Cut new valve tubing (65mm) and install onto housing intake	[]	[]	
10	Place multiple filter housings into a transport casing	[]	[]	

* Applies to Ascension eDNA only (excludes Ascension MP)



Pre-Deployment Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Instrument Inspection				
1	No visible damage to instrument frame	[]	[]	
2	All top & bottom frame pins secured x16	[]	[]	
3	Fluidic channel fitting fully inserted into flow meter intake	[]	[]	
4	Load bearing tether lanyards attached and intact x4	[]	[]	
5	Pump & flow meter cables plugged into core and tight x2	[]	[]	
6	Gently open each valve by hand. All valves open freely x7	[]	[]	
7	Inspect the tether for kinks, damage, and areas of general wear	[]	[]	
Instrument Prep				
1	Grease tether and charging ports with Molykote 44 Medium	[]	[]	
2	Install dummy plug on charging port and tighten locking sleeve	[]	[]	
3	Connect tether to tether port and tighten locking sleeve	[]	[]	
4	Connect tether thimble to instrument anchor shackle	[]	[]	
5	Install small zip tie through anchor shackle to lock in place	[]	[]	
6	* Replace peristaltic pump tubing	[]	[]	
7	* Ensure no kinks in tubing between flow meter and pump	[]	[]	
8	Ensure vent plug installed and tight on bottom of instrument	[]	[]	
Power On Checks				
1	Power on Ascension instrument using bottom switch	[]	[]	
2	Ensure blue status LED flashing on Ascension instrument	[]	[]	
3	Power on tether spool by a single press of the side button	[]	[]	
4	Ensure status LED flashing green on tether spool	[]	[]	
5	Launch <i>Ascension Desktop</i> software	[]	[]	
6	Connect to instrument " <i>File -> Connect Profiler (Bluetooth)</i> "	[]	[]	
7	Wait for instrument serial number to appear (top right)	[]	[]	
8	Open instrument controller " <i>Control -> Real-Time Controller</i> "	[]	[]	
9	Open <i>Home Position</i> using the <i>Sample Channel Selector</i>	[]	[]	
10	Complete Instrument Purge Checklist --->	[]	[]	
Payload Prep				
1	Ensure all 7 filter channels occupied with filter housings	[]	[]	
2	Open <i>Home Position</i> in preparation for deployment	[]	[]	

* Applies to Ascension eDNA only (excludes Ascension MP)



Instrument Purge Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Purge Bucket Prep				
1	Fill purge bucket with fresh tap water (NOT SEAWATER)	[]	[]	
Instrument Prep				
1	Prepare 7x empty filter housings	[]	[]	
2	Wiggle top and bottom of housings - Ensure no movement	[]	[]	
3	Install filter housings into valve channels x7	[]	[]	
4	Ensure valve tubing inserted through pinch mechanism	[]	[]	
5	Ensure all 7 filter channels occupied with filter housings	[]	[]	
6	Open valves 1 - 7 to ensure valve tubing springs open properly	[]	[]	
7	Ensure vent plug installed and tight on bottom of instrument	[]	[]	
8	Lower Ascension into the purge bucket	[]	[]	
9	Ensure instrument fully submerged inside bucket	[]	[]	
Under Settings -> Ascension Settings , set the following:				
1	Rinse Time per Valve: 10s	[]	[]	
2	Rinse Number of Passes: 2	[]	[]	
3	Rinse Pump Throttle: (Ascension eDNA: 30%, Ascension MP: 100%)	[]	[]	
4	Rinse Soak Time: 0s	[]	[]	
5	Close the <i>Ascension Settings</i> window	[]	[]	
Purge Procedure				
1	Open rinse interface under " <i>Control -> Flush Routine</i> "	[]	[]	
2	Click <i>Start Flush Routine</i>	[]	[]	
3	Once complete, lift Ascension out of purge bucket	[]	[]	
4	Ensure instrument remains upright after purge to retain water	[]	[]	
5	Remove the 7x empty filter housings from instrument	[]	[]	
Complete Filter Housing Purge Checklist --->				



Filter Housing Purge Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Filter Purge Procedure				
1	Remove a pre-loaded filter housing from it's transport casing	[]	[]	
2	Insert pinch tubing into valve onboard instrument	[]	[]	
3	Depress purging syringe fully and connect to filter housing	[]	[]	
4	Pull vacuum to 20mL, hold 3 seconds	[]	[]	
5	Release and check < 3mL displacement, note resting position	[]	[]	
6	Syringe resting position identical after second pull	[]	[]	
7	Remove filter housing from instrument	[]	[]	
8	Dip filter housing intake tubing into DI water	[]	[]	
9	Backfill upside down until purge fluid floods the syringe	[]	[]	
	Backfill stroke should move freely with little resistance			
10	Disconnect purge syringe from filter housing while inverted	[]	[]	
11	Load purged filter housing into instrument	[]	[]	
12	Repeat for all 7 filter channels	[]	[]	
13	Top up all 7x filter intake tubes with DI water using syringe	[]	[]	
14	Ensure valve tubing inserted through pinch mechanism x7	[]	[]	
	Return to Payload Prep Section of Pre-Deployment Checklist --->			



Manual Deployment Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Deployment Setup				
1	Start new deployment " <i>File -> New Manual Deployment</i> "	[]	[]	
2	Fill out <i>Deployment Data</i> and <i>Filter Information</i>	[]	[]	
3	Click <i>Launch Deployment</i>	[]	[]	
4	Lower Ascension instrument down into water column	[]	[]	
Sample Collection				
1	Lower Ascension instrument to desired sampling depth	[]	[]	
2	Open desired filter channel using the <i>Sample Channel Selector</i>	[]	[]	
3	Set desired pump throttle using the <i>Pump Throttle Controller</i>	[]	[]	
	<i>Highest efficiency: Ascension eDNA: 30%, Ascension MP: 60%</i>			
4	Once target sample volume collected, set pump throttle to 0%	[]	[]	
5	Close the filter channel by clicking <i>Close All Valves</i>	[]	[]	
	Repeat steps 1 through 5 until all desired samples collected			
7	Bring Ascension instrument back to surface	[]	[]	
8	Click <i>End Deployment</i> under <i>Deployment Information</i>	[]	[]	



Automated Deployment Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Deployment Setup				
1	Start new deployment "File -> New Automated Deployment"	[]	[]	
2	Fill out <i>Deployment Data</i> and <i>Filter Information</i>	[]	[]	
3	Configure mission script using <i>Task Scheduler</i> tab	[]	[]	
4	Write mission script to instrument	[]	[]	
Deployment Execution				
1	Open instrument controller "Control -> Real-Time Controller"	[]	[]	
2	Set instrument mode to auto	[]	[]	
3	Ensure blue status LED blinking 3 rapid bursts	[]	[]	
4	If untethered deployment, ensure tether dummy plug installed	[]	[]	
5	Place instrument in desired sampling location	[]	[]	



Post-Deployment Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Instrument Recovery				
1	Lift Ascension out of water and place upright on a flat surface	[]	[]	
2	Remove all filter housings from instrument	[]	[]	
3	Open <i>Home Position</i> to center valve mechanism	[]	[]	
4	Disconnect fluidic channel fitting from flowmeter intake	[]	[]	
5	Invert Ascension to drain all seawater from fluidic system	[]	[]	
Sample Transfer and Storage				
1	Transport filter housings to protected area (limited traffic & wind)	[]	[]	
2	Put on new pair of clean gloves (latex, vinyl, nitrile, etc...)	[]	[]	
3	Gently open filter housing by unscrewing upper ring	[]	[]	
4	Using tweezers, quickly transfer filter into petri dish	[]	[]	
5	Label petri dish accordingly and fill out sample sheet	[]	[]	
6	Process/store according to your sample procedure	[]	[]	
	Proceed to Automated Rinse Checklist --->			



Automated Rinse Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Rinse Bucket Prep				
1	Fill rinse bucket with fresh tap water (NOT SEAWATER)	[]	[]	
Instrument Prep				
1	Prepare 7x empty filter housings	[]	[]	
2	Wiggle top and bottom of housings - Ensure no movement	[]	[]	
3	Install filter housings into valve channels x7	[]	[]	
4	Ensure valve tubing inserted through pinch mechanism	[]	[]	
5	Ensure all 7 filter channels occupied with filter housings	[]	[]	
6	Gently open valves 1 - 7 by hand to ensure proper installation	[]	[]	
7	Ensure no kinks in tubing between flow meter and pump	[]	[]	
8	Fluidic channel fitting fully inserted into flowmeter intake	[]	[]	
9	Ensure vent plug installed and tight on bottom of instrument	[]	[]	
10	Lower Ascension into the purge bucket	[]	[]	
11	Ensure instrument fully submerged inside bucket	[]	[]	
Rinse Setup				
1	Launch <i>Ascension Desktop</i> software	[]	[]	
2	Connect to instrument " <i>File -> Connect Profiler (Bluetooth)</i> "	[]	[]	
3	Wait for instrument serial number to appear (top right)	[]	[]	
	Under <i>Settings</i> -> <i>Ascension Settings</i>, set the following:			
4	Rinse Time per Valve: 60s	[]	[]	
5	Rinse Number of Passes: 3	[]	[]	
6	Rinse Pump Throttle: (Ascension eDNA: 30%, Ascension MP: 100%)	[]	[]	
7	Rinse Soak Time: 0s	[]	[]	
8	Close the <i>Ascension Settings</i> window	[]	[]	
Rinse Procedure				
1	Open rinse interface under " <i>Control -> Flush Routine</i> "	[]	[]	
2	Click <i>Start Flush Routine</i>	[]	[]	
3	Once complete, lift Ascension out of wash bucket	[]	[]	
4	Remove all filter housings from instrument	[]	[]	
5	Power off Ascension instrument using bottom switch	[]	[]	
6	Disconnect fluidic channel fitting from flowmeter intake	[]	[]	
7	Invert Ascension to drain all water from fluidic system	[]	[]	
8	Cut small zip tie through tether anchor shackle	[]	[]	
9	Disconnect tether thimble from instrument anchor shackle	[]	[]	
10	Loosen red locking sleeve and disconnect tether from instrument	[]	[]	
11	Install dummy plug on tether port and tighten locking sleeve	[]	[]	



Storage Checklist

Name	Date [YYYY-MM-DD]	Complete
		[]

No.	Item Description	Checked	Confirmed	Initials
Before Long-Term Storage				
1	Deplete instrument battery to ~50% in fresh water rinse tank	[]	[]	
2	Deplete tether spool battery to ~50%	[]	[]	
3	Power off instrument and ensure blue status LED is off	[]	[]	
4	Unplug fluidic channel fitting from flow meter intake	[]	[]	
5	Ensure all water drained from instrument by inverting	[]	[]	
6	Remove vent plug from bottom of pressure housing	[]	[]	
7	Insert Ascension instrument into carry case (Pump side up)	[]	[]	
8	Power off tether spool and ensure all status LEDs are off	[]	[]	
9	Insert tether spool into carry case	[]	[]	
10	Ensure all case latches engaged and locked x6	[]	[]	