

Third Rock Develops Macro LIMS

Third Rock is in the final development phase of a custom designed Macroinvertebrate Laboratory Information Management System (MacLIMS); we anticipate being on-line by April 1, 2007.

Using Microsoft Access, MacLIMS has been designed to streamline all aspects of sample and data management within the laboratory. The system will allow management to easily establish and maintain laboratory workflow and monitor laboratory processes/project status on a "real-time" basis.

Electronic Data Deliverables (EDDs) will be generated by MacLIMS - establishing a paperless reporting process for both the laboratory and the client (hardcopy reports will still be available upon request). MacLIMS will be accessible by sample sorters, taxonomists, and laboratory management at their individual workstations. Structured levels of security, quality assurance protocol, and data review have been incorporated into the design of MacLIMS to ensure the validity and integrity of all samples from start to finish.

Samples will be logged into MacLIMS upon receipt. The associated Chain-of-Custody form will be scanned to the project file; sample information including identification (station ID, stream name, etc.), collection date and time, receipt date and time, and required analyses, will be entered for reference and tracking purposes.

During successive stages of sample processing and identification, additional information will be entered for each sample such as date sorted, number of grids sorted, number of organisms found, sorting date, name of sorter, number and taxa of organisms identified, completion date, and name of taxonomist.

All sample and data information will be maintained in MacLIMS; data can be exported to Excel format and used to prepare client reports and associated documents. Station metric calculations can be generated through MacLIMS and will be available upon request. All related sample and data information will be archived in MacLIMS upon project completion. Contact Marcia Wooton, Laboratory Services Coordinator, for information regarding our aquatic laboratory capabilities.