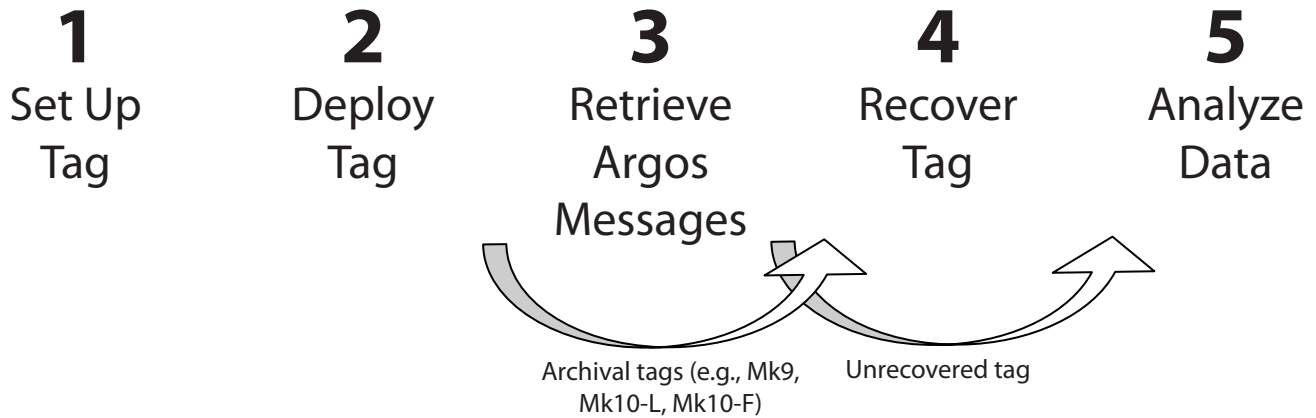


Wildlife Computers Quick Start Guide



1 SET UP TAG

The set-up of a tag is customized using a PC running a Host program, connected to a tag with a USB-Blue cable. Each family of tag types has its own Host program which you can install from the CD that was shipped with your tags, or from the Downloads page at WildlifeComputers.com.

- Mk9 Host
- Mk10 Host
- MiniPAT Host
- AC1 Host
- SPLASH Host
- SPOT5 Host

You will also need to download and install the USB-Blue Driver. Do this prior to connecting the hardware.

The User Manual for your tag type is also on the distribution CD or can be downloaded from the documentation section of the Downloads page at WildlifeComputers.com. The User Manual describes how to use a Host program to customize a tag for your study conditions.

2 DEPLOY TAG

Deployment instructions are in the appropriate User Manual. Tags have 3 modes of operation: Standby, Deploy, and Shutdown. Once parameters have been put into a tag using the Host program, the tag may be put in Standby mode. In Standby, the tag is ready for deployment, but waiting for an event to start collecting data. The tag will enter Deploy mode based on the following events:

- The wet/dry sensor detects an extended period of wet
- The depth sensor detects an extended period of deep water
- A magnet is passed by the tag twice in a precise sequence

Optionally, the tag can be reconnected to Host and manually put into Deploy mode. In Shutdown mode, the tag will be unresponsive and collect no data, until reconnected to the Host program for programming.

3 RETRIEVE ARGOS MESSAGE - For tags with an Argos satellite transmitter

After your tag begins transmitting messages you can retrieve them from Argos by any or all of these means:

- Using Wildlife Computers' Argos Message Retriever
- Via emails sent by Argos
- Via CDs/DVDs sent by Argos
- From www.argos-system.org

To retrieve your data online using Wildlife Computers software, install the Wildlife Computers Data Analysis Programs (WC-DAP) and documentation from the CD that shipped with your tags or from our Downloads page. Argos Message Retriever performs scheduled downloads of your Argos data messages via Telnet. If you have several tags transmitting at once, you can manage them using Argos Project Editor, which is bundled in WC-DAP.

To receive your data via emails, CDs, DVDs, or the Argos website see instructions at www.argos-system.org. Receiving your data on CDs or DVDs from Argos is highly recommended as a backup because Argos only keeps your data online for nine days.

4 RECOVER TAG

If your tag has archived data and you physically recover the tag, it will contain a more detailed record of samples than was transmitted through the Argos satellite messages. The archive of recorded samples is downloaded from the tag to your PC using the Host program and USB cable. See the tag's user manual for detailed instructions.

Archives downloaded from tags are saved as .wch files. wch files contain all the raw data needed for the analysis programs described in Step 5.

5 ANALYZE DATA

WC-DAP is a set of analysis programs available on CD or the Wildlife Computers Downloads page. In addition to Argos Message Retriever and Argos Project Editor described in Step 3, WC-DAP also includes:

- DAP Processor which decodes data received in Argos messages or in downloaded .wch files from recovered tags.
- Fast-GPS Location Solver which processes the GPS snapshots that were acquired by the tag and retrieved via Argos or through tag recovery.

WC-GPE is an independent program that processes light-level curves acquired by the tag (and pre-processed by WC-DAP) to give approximate geographic locations. It has an interface to allow Kalman filter processes to interact with the location data.

The following chart shows which programs are used to process data from tags:

