

Water Quality Sondes FAQ

Q: Can we get the data back to our desktop via telemetry?

A: Absolutely! Data can be retrieved from the sondes through several different avenues. For more information, check out our Integrated Systems page.

Q: What communications options are available for my sondes?

A: The Series 5 sondes can communicate via RS-232, SDI-12, or RS-485. The Series 4a sondes can communicate via RS-232 or SDI-12. The Quanta and Quanta-G both communicate via SDI-12.

Q: What is SDI-12?

A: SDI-12 stands for "serial data interface at 1200 baud." It is a standard to interface battery powered data recorders with micro-processor based sensors designed for environmental data acquisition (EDA).

Q: How deep can these sondes go?

A: The Series 5 and Series 4a sondes are all built to withstand depths to 225 meters. The Quanta and Quanta-G are built to withstand depths to 100 meters.

Q: Can the same unit be used in fresh and salt water applications?

A: Yes. Hydrolab sondes and sensors are built to operate in either fresh water or salt water applications.

Q: Is any assembly required for a Hydrolab sonde?

A: No. The Hydrolab sondes will arrive at your facility completely assembled and ready for use. Hydrolab does, however, recommend calibration in your environment and using your procedures before deployment.

Q: How long can I deploy my instrument?

A: Deployment length depends on battery life and bio-fouling. Battery life is affected by the number of the parameters being measured and the frequency of measurement. Fewer parameters and less frequent measurements require less power, and therefore can have longer battery life. Bio-fouling depends the environment in which the unit is deployed. Biological growth is more prevalent in warmer climates and more active waters. Fortunately, the effects of bio-fouling can be greatly reduced by using the Hydrolab DS5X to periodically and automatically clean the sensors.

Q: How frequently can I take a reading if using a log file?

A: As delivered from the factory the smallest interval is 30 seconds, however by changing the setup the minimum interval can be as low as 5 seconds.

Q: How do I store a unit over the winter?

A: Clean the instrument and place one ounce of tap water in the storage cup. Place the instrument in a location that will not be exposed to temperatures below freezing or above 50 degrees C.

Q: What do I need to do when deploying my unit after being stored for a long period of time?

A: Complete the following checklist:

- pH sensor cleaned
- pH Reference Electrolyte replaced
- pH Reference Junction replaced
- LDO cap replaced

Or

- _____ Dissolved Oxygen membrane replaced
- _____ Dissolved Oxygen electrolyte replaced
- _____ Internal battery pack batteries replaced

And, for more complete maintenance information, view our [Hydrolab Maintenance page](#).
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DataSonde 5X

Q: Do I need to purchase a Self-Cleaning Turbidity sensor with the DataSonde 5X?

A: No. The DataSonde 5X is available with or without the Turbidity sensor.

Q: How often should I change the wiper?

A: Hydrolab's brush is designed to retain its effectiveness for a long period of time because our fibers are very strong and our design will not allow them to separate over time. However, in extremely active environments, the brush itself can become fouled and reduce its effectiveness. Hydrolab includes 4 replacement brushes with the maintenance kit for the DataSonde 5X, so you will not incur any additional costs if a change is needed.

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Quanta

Q: Can I connect a Quanta to a datalogger?

A: Yes. The Quanta can connect to any datalogger that communicates using SDI-12.