



Unified Protocol Summary – 2009

North Carolina Calling Amphibian Survey Program (CASP)



A route is conducted at least 3 times per year, once during each specified sampling window. Observers are encouraged to sample additional times during each window as well as outside the windows for more complete coverage of a given route, but this is not required. The survey should be conducted during appropriate sampling conditions during the windows. Avoid conditions that are too windy (wind level less than 3) or heavy rain. Go out on a night that meets minimum temperature requirements and is humid or “good frog weather”. Mountain region routes are excluded from the minimum temperature requirements for both windows 1 and 2.

3 Window System	Minimum Temperature
Window 1: January 15 – February 28	5.6° C (42° F)
Window 2: March 15 – April 30	10° C (50° F)
Window 3: May 15 – June 30	12.8° C (55° F)

Remember only one observer per datasheet. If more than one person wants to report data, then use separate datasheets. Return all completed datasheets to your Regional Coordinator.

You may start your survey 30 minutes after sunset or later, be sure to complete the survey by 1 a.m. **Always start with Stop 1 and complete stops in numerical order. Do not survey the route in reverse order for any reason.** If you were unable to survey at a stop, then check the “skipped stop” box on the datasheet.

Report the following data:

- Window number and survey date
- Your name and if it has changed, your contact information
- Days since last rainfall event (if known)

At the START and FINISH of each survey, please record the following data:

- Time
- Sky Code
- Wind Code

At EVERY STOP on the survey route, please listen for 5 minutes and then record the following data:

- Amphibian calling index for each species heard
- Air temperature*
- Whether you used a “time out” due to noise disturbance
- Whether background noise impacted your ability to hear
- Number of cars that pass during the listening period (may be counted by an assistant)
- Indicate “Yes or No” to whether the moon or moonlight was visible.
- Any observations of additional wildlife you wish to report (e.g. reptiles, birds, or salamanders seen along the route)