

# Wildlife Computers Quick Start Guide

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**This overview describes the general steps followed to utilize Wildlife Computers tags. No tag should be deployed or data downloaded using only this guide. It is strongly suggested that the appropriate documentation for each specific tag type be consulted.**

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Set Up Tag	Deploy Tag	Retrieve Argos Messages	Recover Tag	Analyze Data

## 1 Set Up Tag

Each tag is customized using a personal computer running a host program connected to the tag with a Wildlife Computers USB-Blue cable. Every type of tag has its own host program which is installed from the downloads page at [WildlifeComputers.com](http://WildlifeComputers.com). You need to download and install the USB-Blue cable driver before connecting the USB-Blue.

The user manual for your tag is downloaded from the documentation section of the downloads page at [WildlifeComputers.com](http://WildlifeComputers.com). Each user manual describes how to customize a tag for your study conditions.

## 2 Deploy Tag

A deployed tag is collecting data and perhaps transmitting information to satellites. Tags are deployed using a host program, or they can automatically deploy based on conditions such as:

- 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 in a precise sequence

## 3 Retrieve Argos Messages (For tags having an Argos transmitter)

You can retrieve data transmitted by a tag using any or all of these means:

- Emails or discs sent directly from by Service Argos
- Downloads from [www.argos-system.org](http://www.argos-system.org)
- Wildlife Computers Argos Message Retriever

See the instructions at [www.argos-system.org](http://www.argos-system.org) to learn how to receive your data directly from Service Argos.

Wildlife Computers Data Analysis Programs (WC-DAP) is downloaded from [WildlifeComputers.com](http://WildlifeComputers.com). WC-DAP contains Argos Message Retriever which runs on your computer and periodically contacts Argos to download your data.

## 4 Recover Tag

If you physically recover your tag and it contains archived data, the tag contains a more detailed record of samples than was transmitted through Argos satellites. The recorded samples are transferred from the tag to your personal computer using a host program and a USB-Blue cable. Archives downloaded from tags are saved as .wch files and are interpreted by Wildlife Computers Data Analysis Programs (WC-DAP).

## 5 Analyze Data

Wildlife Computers Data Analysis Programs (WC-DAP) contains tools to:

- Geolocate the tag from light level data
- Convert Fast-GPS data into latitude and longitude information
- Decode Argos message data and analyze transmission performance
- Create formatted output such as CSV files, Google Earth maps, WaveMetrics IGOR experiment files

WC-DAP documentation is available in the Start Menu on your Windows computer:

