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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR SEDIMENT PROBING

1. Using the on-board GPS system, maneuver the sampling vessel to within 5 ft of the pre-programmed target coordinates for each sample location. Secure the vessel in place using spuds and/or anchors.
2. Use a 3/8 in. steel rod or equivalent to probe the sediment. The probe will be sharpened at one end, and calibrated in 6 in. intervals.
3. Probing will be conducted a minimum of 3 - 5 ft away from the target core location to avoid disturbing the sediment at the sampling location.
4. Advance the probe into the river bed, noting the depth of penetration and type of resistance met by the probe.
5. Move the probe laterally several feet (while maintaining the minimum 3 ft distance from the target core location) and repeat the probing at least 3 times.
6. Record the approximate average sediment thickness (to the nearest 1/2 ft.) and estimated sediment type (e.g., rock, fine-grained, coarse-grained) in the field log. If results of probing are inconsistent between the three attempts; record the inconsistency in the manual description of the field database. Record the estimated sediment type as the most representative one of the three attempts.
7. Prepare to collect a core in accordance with the procedures specified in the Sediment Core Collection SOP.