

WHOI S2A/ALTO

Argo Float Deployment Instructions

We would like to thank you for assisting Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the International Argo Programme in deploying Argo Float(s) for us. We appreciate your time and contributions to the global observing network.

These instructions assume that the floats have been confirmed with WHOI to be started.

See WHOI Argo Float Startup/Deployment Instructions for startup instructions.

DEPLOYING THE FLOATS with water release

Step 1: While on deck, remove the outer plastic sleeve, plastic wrap, and the cardboard that protects the water release from the deployment box. The picture to the right shows the water release tied to the straps. Note: The current boxes, unlike the picture to the right, has a hole in the bottom where you can see/feel the bladder. Please be sure to keep the area where you are working as dry as possible, as moisture/water will cause the water release mechanism to ‘fire’ prematurely releasing the box from the straps before the float is in the water. If needed, sit the Float on the cardboard shield.



Step 2: Using the carabiner, pass the 4 loops of the nylon float bridle through it, as well as the deployment line (see picture below). The deployment line provided is 3/8” Yalex and 150ft long. Please be sure to attach one end of the deployment-line to a convenient, sturdy point.



Step 3: Lower the box to the water so that the water release gets wet (i.e. – keep the box vertical and allow the bottom of the box to get wet). The release works best when the box is lowered into the water vertically and not floating on its side. This is a multi-person job, as the float box is 6ft long and about 60 pounds. There is no need to slow the ship. When the release mechanism gets wet, the starch ring will dissolve and it will release the box from the bridle and the entire box will slip away. The box is sealed with water-soluble tape and is totally biodegradable. See pictures for the correct and incorrect way to deploy the Floats.

When the water release fails to release

First make sure that the box is deployed up right and the bottom of the box is in the water. Sometimes the water release will fail to open. Allow the bottom of the box to soak in the water for 15 seconds. If after that time the release hasn't functioned, bring the float back on board and use the Sling Deployment Method, described below. Do not wait longer than 15 seconds as the water dissolvable tape and the box will start to disintegrate.

Step 4: Fill in the launch date, position, time, etc. on the Deployment Log sheet(attached). If it is possible, email the launch information with the instrument number, launch date and position to deploymentinfo@whoi.edu.

Please collect the deployment equipment, the launch harness, and the release mechanism and put them in the deployment supplies box. When you return to port, we will supply you with a pre-paid shipping label.

Correct way to deploy the SOLO-2 Floats



Incorrect way to deploy the SOLO-2 Floats



DEPLOYMENT EQUIPMENT BOX

In addition to the boxed Float, there will be a box containing other deployment equipment. This includes a slip line, locking carabiner, magnet used when the Float was started up (Note: These floats have already been started up.), spare cornstarch collar for the water release, instruction manuals, zip ties to reclose the outer plastic protective layer (if you choose to start the Float up not on the vessel), and paperwork to record the Float deployment information.



Deployment Line



Carabiner



Magnet

Thank you again for your assistance,
WHOI Float Operations Group & International Argo Programme