

HPLC Analysis of Phytoplankton Pigments Protocol: Update



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Initial Plan and Current Status

Original plan

- Drafting phase initiated in Summer 2024
- Regular bimonthly coordination meetings planned
- Final protocol expected during 2025

Current situation

- Since May 2025, 4 coordination meetings were held
- Progress slower than initially anticipated

Delays mainly linked to

- Obligations of contributors to their home institutions

Updated target

- Draft release planned by the end of 2026

HPLC Protocol Outline and Status

Chapter	Status
Introduction	~90%
Sampling procedures	~85%
Sample preservation	~20%
Extraction	~75%
LC methodology	~50%
QA/QC framework	~75%
Applications and other considerations	~60%

Topics covered

- Sampling and filtration strategies
- Preservation and extraction procedures
- HPLC/uHPLC methodologies
- Calibration and quantification
- QA/QC framework
- Applications to CHEMTAX, PFTs, SOMs, ML approaches

Overall assessment

- All chapters are drafted
- Completion levels differ among sections
- Technical harmonization and cross-review still ongoing
- QA/QC and calibration sections require the most coordination

HPLC Protocol Next Steps and Updated Timeline

Planned activities (2026)

- Increase meeting frequency during the second half of 2026
- Finalize incomplete sections
- Cross-check overlaps between chapters
- Standardize formatting, references, and terminology
- Internal technical review
- Preparation of final consolidated draft

Target

- Draft release by December 2026