Determining water colour

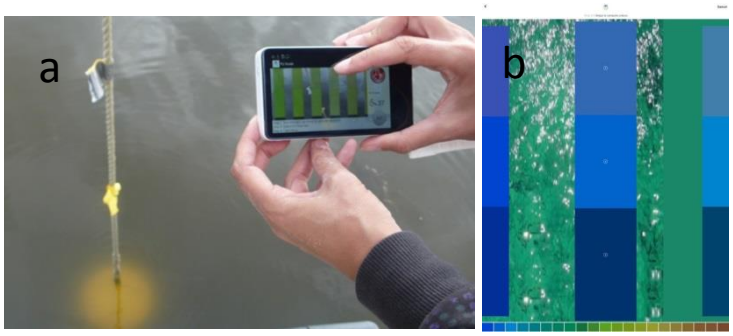
Colour is one of the most often described physical characteristic for water next to transparency. Water colour is determined by the interaction of many factors including sky conditions, the amount and type of algae, fine particles suspended and organic compounds dissolved in water. The **Forel-Ule Scale** is a common method to determine the colour of lake water and has been used since the 1890s.

The **Eye On Water**-app, based on the Forel-Ule scale, will allow us to have an indication of water colour that can be compared to past published data from many years ago. You can help by using the app in i) any lakes you happen to visit, ii) those lakes where your science partner has old data.

Please read the entire protocol before starting! Normal health and safety precautions should be taken at all times, for more information see website: www.nioo.knaw.nl/en/Netlake-Citizen-Science

- **Method**
- Use the official **Eye On Water** app co developed by the Dutch Institute for Sea research (NIOZ).
- Download this app from http://www.eyeonwater.org/ for Android or Apple and follow their instructions.
- If you are in a boat or off a pier and have a Secchi disk reading, check the colour against the white background as instructed (a).
- If you are along the shore - Compare the Forel-Ule color scale to the color of water as instructed (b).
- The app will also ask you if it is raining or not and if you see the bottom of the lake. Answer and click.
- Note the colour result you get for your water and please don't forget to send in your results via www.nioo.knaw.nl/en/Netlake-Citizen-Science

- Other useful information for your science partner would be a panoramic photo of the lake and if possible a small sample of lake water. If you are interested in collecting the water sample, your science partner will be provide you with 50 mL plastic test tubes.



Example using the Eye on Water app with (a) and without (b) Secchi disk (http://www.eyeonwater.org/)