

Oil Descriptor Form

Beach Number: _____	Date: ____/____/____	Page: _____ of _____
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Oil/Tarball Information

- # Oil/Tarballs Found - Refers to Entire Beach _____
- # Oil/Tarballs Collected (collect 3 max.) _____
- Size Range of Oil/Tarballs Found _____ cm (min) - _____ cm (max)
- # Oiled Dead Specimen Samples Collected _____
- Estimate total percentage* of entire beach survey area (up to the dune vegetation or cliff face) covered or contaminated with oil or tarballs _____ %.

Oil Band Description – Refers to Total Bands on Entire Beach Survey Area

Describe the band(s) or strip of oil – check one

- H** Heavy: > 3 meters wide continuous band
- M** Medium: >1 meter to ≤ 3 meters continuous or broken band
- L** Light: > 0.5 meters to ≤ 1 meter of any type; multiple oil swash line
- V** Very Light: Sporadic tarballs

Maximum Width of ALL Oil Bands combined _____ (meters)

Maximum Length of ALL Oil Bands combined _____ (meters)

- Check Box if Multiple Bands present

Oil Descriptors* – Refers to Entire Beach Survey Area

Percent Covered* – check one

- C** Continuous: 91 - 100%
- B** Broken: 51 - 90%
- P** Patchy: 11 - 50%
- S** Sporadic: ≥1 - 10%
- T** Trace: <1%

Thickness* – check as many as apply

- PO** Thick or pooled Oil (thick oil, fresh oil or mousse > 1 cm thick)
- CV** Cover (oil or mousse from > 0.1 cm to < 1 cm on any surface)
- CT** Coat (visible oil < 0.1 cm which can be scrapped off with fingernail)
- SL** Stain (visible oil, which cannot be scrapped of with fingernail)
- FL** Film (transparent or iridescent sheen or oily film)

Type and Size* – check as many as apply

- FR** Fresh oil (non-weathered, liquid oil)
- MS** Mousse (emulsified oil occurring over broad areas)
- TB** Tarballs (discrete accumulations of oil < 10 cm in diameter)
- PT** Patties (discrete accumulations of oil > 10 cm in diameter, small oiled surface sediments/sand balls)
- TC** Tar (highly weathered oil, of tarry, nearly solid consistency)
- AP** Asphalt Pavements (cohesive, heavily oiled surface sediments)

Photographs – Record the photos on your photo documentation log. Check boxes below when completed:

- Tarball w/photoscale 0.5 meters away 5 meters away 10 meters away Check box when using GPS camera

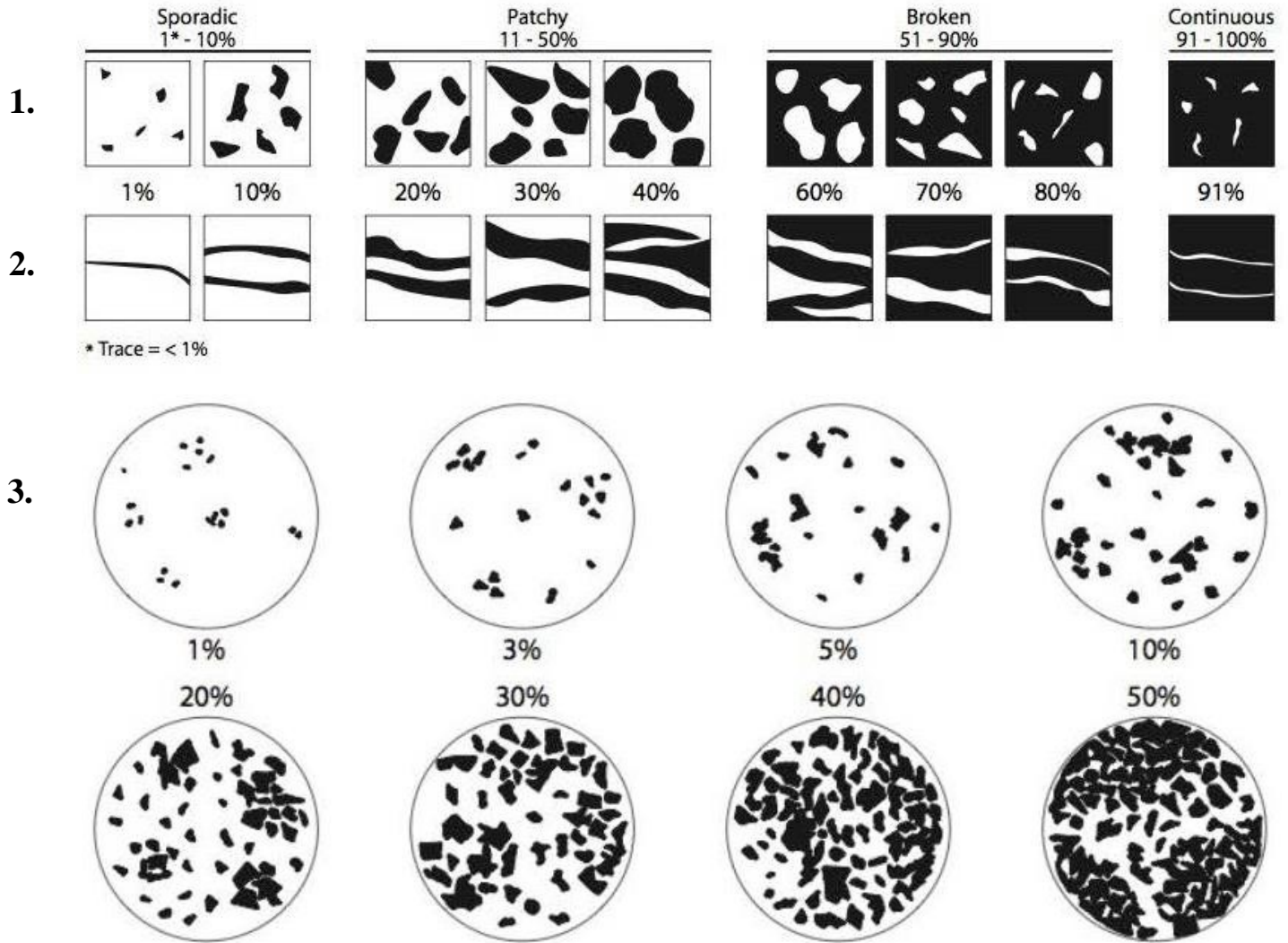
*Refer to NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid for more information, descriptions and sample photographs of Surface Oiling Descriptors

Please call 415-987-0412 ASAP to report any tarballs and/or oil

Revised 9/17/19

Surface Oil Percent Cover Estimation

These charts are aids to help you estimate the percent oil coverage in the area you are observing. The black shading represents oil. Do not spend time trying to get a precise measure of percent cover; the four ranges, in the first line of drawings, are usually sufficient. Use the second line of drawings when oil bands are present. The third set of drawings is best for describing discrete oil deposits such as tarballs.



*Source: NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid for more information, descriptions and sample photographs of Surface Oiling Descriptors by Type and Thickness:

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/resources/shoreline-assessment-job-aid.html>

See Beach Watch Portal/Volunteer Resources for more information.