



NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project

Survey Coversheet

Complete ONE per survey
Record data at <https://mdmap.orr.noaa.gov>

SITE NAME: _____
Name used for the 100-meter site in the MDMAP database

DATE: _____
MM/DD/YYYY

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:
Name of all participants (include email if you wish to receive MDMAP updates from NOAA)

Record additional participant information in the notes

TOTAL SURVEY DURATION: _____
Include travel time to/from the site HH:MM

K-12 GROUP? yes
Is the team a student group? no

TEAM COUNT: _____
The total number of participants involved in the survey

FIRST TIMERS: _____
For how many participants is it their first MDMAP survey?

RECREATORS:
Upon arrival, how many people are in the 100-meter site?

- 0-10
- 11-50
- 51-100
- >100

WEATHER NOW:
(Check one)

- sunny
- partly cloudy
- mostly cloudy
- light rain/precip
- heavy precip

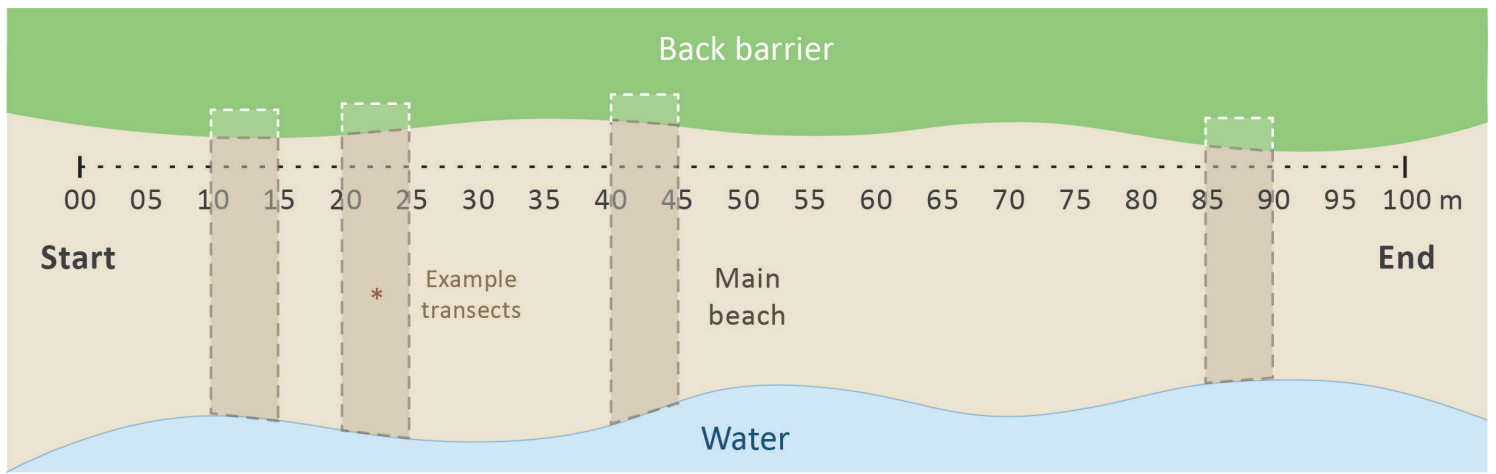
DRAIN INPUT: yes
Is there a storm drain, pipe, or channelized input within the 100-meter survey site? no

TRASH CANS: present and overflowing
Are trash cans present or not? If present, what condition are they in? (Check one) present and NOT overflowing not present

NOTES:
Describe interesting items from outside surveyed transects, abundance of debris smaller than 2.5 centimeters, changes to site, evidence of cleanup, sampling issues, etc.

DEBRIS REMOVAL: all/most
Was debris removed from the 100-meter site (not just the survey transects)? some none

SURVEY PHOTOS:
List timestamp, photo number, or other information to keep track of photos from the survey



SURVEY QUICK REFERENCE

Before beginning, refer to the Monitoring Toolbox and Survey Guide at <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/monitoring-toolbox>

Before you go:

- Select FOUR random transect start points
- Check the weather and tides (aim for a low or outgoing tide)
- Confirm that you have all datasheets, survey supplies, and safety gear

At the survey site:

- Estimate the number of recreators within the 100-meter site as you arrive
- Record the survey coversheet data
- From the site start, use a measuring wheel or meter tape to find and mark the start of each of the four transects with a flag or other marker

For each transect:

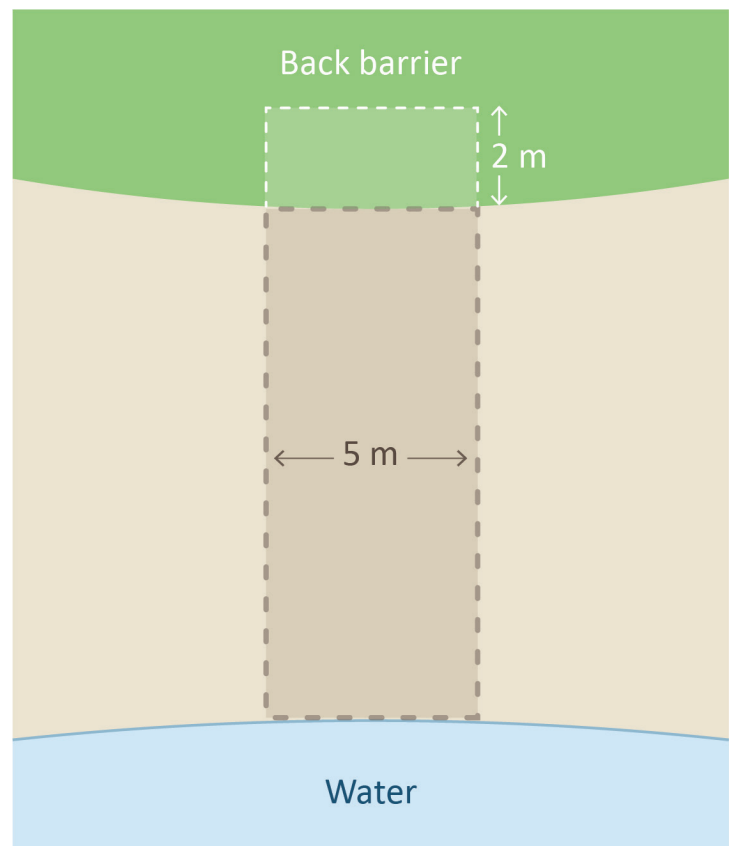
- Complete a transect datasheet (front and back)
- The search should be conducted by no more than two people walking the perimeter of the 5-meter transect and looking in
- Count and categorize debris that is at least 2.5 centimeters (bottle cap or larger) - smaller items can be described in the “notes”
- Record items 2 meters into the “back barrier” separately from the “main beach” (see diagram to right)

Before leaving:

- Note the total survey duration on the *Survey Coversheet*
- Note where and how much debris was removed within the 100-meter site on the *Survey Coversheet* and *Transect Survey Forms*
- Gather all supplies

When a new person joins the team:

- They should shadow transect set-up and search, and conduct a “consistency check” for debris categorization before collecting data independently



Example of a survey transect.

Reminders:

- Fragments are unidentifiable broken items larger than 2.5 centimeters
- Material selection should be based on what is predominant on the surface of the item
- Surveys can be paired with beach cleanups, but wait until after data collection is completed

We recommend photos of:

- All the debris laid out with a ruler for scale (one photo per transect) if debris is removed
- Close-ups of any unidentifiable, interesting, or difficult to categorize items
- Items that are too large to remove, as you found them
- **Include a ruler for scale!**