

Adopt-a-Beach Routine Visit Form

Answer these questions during your beach visit. Use our companion Routine Visit Form Guide for question by question instructions on how to complete the form.

After each visit please enter your data online at www.greatlakes.org. If you have data to enter prior to June 15th 2008, email adoptabeach@greatlakes.org for data entry direction since the system will be under construction. If you have questions about Adopt-a-Beach, contact adoptabeach@greatlakes.org.

Beach name and location (city and state)

Adopt-a-Beach team name

Contact person

Visit date

Visit time of day (e.g. 11:00 a.m.)

Number of volunteers _____ X _____ = _____
 Time spent Total volunteer hours spent at this beach visit

Describe the boundaries of the beach area you have adopted using fixed objects, street names or other fixed reference points. Some groups have adopted a portion of a beach area and some groups have adopted an entire beach.

General Beach Conditions

1. Air temperature _____ Celsius Fahrenheit (Check type of measurement taken.)

2. Wind direction S SE SW N NE NW E W (Check the answer that applies.)

3. What is the wind speed? (Circle one of the options below.) *See Beaufort Wind Scale detailed in the Routine Visit Form Guide.

| Knots | Under 1 | 1-3 | 4-6 | 7-10 | 11-16 | 17-21 | 22-27 | 28-27 | 34-40 |
|-------------|---------|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|-------|
| Description | Calm | Light air | Light breeze | Gentle breeze | Moderate breeze | Fresh breeze | Strong breeze | Near gale | Gale |

4. When was the most recent rain event? (If it lasted more than one day, check the appropriate answer.)

Consider that 24 hours = 1 day, 48 hours = 2 days and 72 hours = 3 days.

- Less than 24 hours ago Less than 48 hours ago
 Less than 72 hours ago More than 72 hours ago I don't know

5. Describe the rain event, if one has occurred in the past 72 hours (3 days).

- Misting Light rain Steady rain Heavy rain
 No rain event in the past 72 hours I don't know

Other (e.g. snow, hail) describe: _____

6. If it has rained within the past 72 hours and you have a rain gauge at the beach, measure the amount of rain in inches or centimeters. (If you do not have a rain gauge or have access to a rain gauge at your beach, please select no rain gauge.)

_____ in/cm No rain gauge

7. Longshore current: What is the amount of time (in seconds) _____ that it takes your floatable object to travel 10 meters. See Routine Visit Form Guide for instructions on how to measure the longshore current.

8. What is the speed _____ of the longshore current?

To determine the speed of the longshore current use the following equation:

10 meters ÷ by _____ time in seconds = _____ speed in meters per second

Example #1: 10 meters ÷ 30 seconds = .33 meters per second






Summary: Your floatable object moves 10 meters in 30 seconds. Therefore, the speed of the longshore current is .33 meters per second.

Example #2: 10 meters ÷ 40 seconds = .25 meters per second

Summary: Your floatable object moves 10 meters in 40 seconds, therefore the speed of the longshore current is 0.25 meters per second.

9. What is the direction _____ of the longshore current? (The longshore current runs parallel to the beach.)

10. What are the current sky conditions? (Check one of the options below.)

| Sky condition | Sunny | Mostly sunny | Partly sunny | Mostly cloudy | Cloudy |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Amount of cloud coverage | No clouds  | 1/8 to 1/4  | 3/8 to 1/2  | 5/8 to 7/8  | Total coverage  |

11. What is the current wave height in feet? (Check one of the options below.) Wave height is determined by measuring the distance between the crest (tallest point of the wave) to the trough (the lowest point of the wave) just lakeward of where the waves are breaking.

- No waves
 1-2 feet
 3-4 feet
 5-6 feet
 6-8 feet
 Over 8 feet

12. Describe the intensity of the waves. (Check one of the options below.)

- Calm
 Medium
 Rough
-

Water Quality

13. Some adopters may have the ability to measure water pH. If you are one of these adopters, please enter the pH level of the water. _____

14. If a pH reading was taken, please indicate the testing method you used. (Check the appropriate answer.)

pH paper pH liquid solution pH meter

15. Bacteria sample results. Please refer to Adopt-a-Beach guide for specific protocol and to determine results. Your water sample should be taken at the same location in the middle of your adopted beach where 24-30 inches (2 – 2.5 feet) of water depth is first encountered and at 6 inches below the surface. If you are using the Alliance's test kits, fill in: *E. coli* – water and Coliform and leave the results blank for other types of bacteria tests.

Sample #1

| Test type | <i>E. coli</i> – water | Coliform | Enterococcus | <i>E. coli</i> – sand |
|----------------|------------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Number of dots | | | | |

Sample #2

| Test type | <i>E. coli</i> – water | Coliform | Enterococcus | <i>E. coli</i> – sand |
|----------------|------------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Number of dots | | | | |

16. What is the water temperature? _____ Celsius Fahrenheit (Check type of measurement taken.)

17. Have you noted any changes in water color from previous visits? (Check the appropriate answer.)

Yes No This is our first beach visit

If you have noted a change in color, describe it. _____

18. Describe the odor of the water. (Check one or more of the options below.)

No smell Sewage Algae (decaying plants)
 Sulfur (rotten eggs) Musty (wet soil) Other If other, describe: _____

19. Describe the turbidity (cloudiness) of the water. (Check one of the options below.) Observe turbidity at the same location you take your water sample.

Clear Slightly cloudy Cloudy Opaque (solid)

20. Additional observations about water quality: _____

Bather Load (Number of people at the beach)

21. What is the total number of people at the beach, excluding your group (this includes total number of people in the water, on the water and on the beach)? _____

22. What is the total number of people in and on the water? _____

23. For people in or on the water, describe the type of activity and number of people involved.

(Use the table below to fill in the number of people involved in the activities listed below.)

| Type of activity | Sailing/ power boating | Canoeing/ kayaking | Jet skiing | Fishing | Surfing | Windsurfing/ kite boarding | Swimming/ wading | Other |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Number of people engaged in this activity | | | | | | | | |

If other, describe the type of activity in or on the water: _____

24. General comments and observations on the number of people at the beach:

Potential Pollution Sources

25. Identify any of these features up to 500 feet from the beach boundary that are visible. (See Adopt-a-Beach Guide to determine flow rate)

| Source Type | River/Stream/Channel | Pond(s) | Wetland(s) | Outfall (pipe discharging to the beach) | Other |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amount (Check the answer that applies) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gushing <input type="checkbox"/> Steady stream <input type="checkbox"/> Trickle | <input type="checkbox"/> Gushing <input type="checkbox"/> Steady stream <input type="checkbox"/> Trickle | <input type="checkbox"/> Gushing <input type="checkbox"/> Steady stream <input type="checkbox"/> Trickle | <input type="checkbox"/> Gushing <input type="checkbox"/> Steady stream <input type="checkbox"/> Trickle | <input type="checkbox"/> Gushing <input type="checkbox"/> Steady stream <input type="checkbox"/> Trickle |
| Flow Rate (Record as M/sec) | | | | | |
| Characteristics (Check all that apply) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Foamy <input type="checkbox"/> Things floating in water <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen on water | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Foamy <input type="checkbox"/> Things floating in water <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen on water | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Foamy <input type="checkbox"/> Things floating in water <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen on water | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Foamy <input type="checkbox"/> Things floating in water <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen on water | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Foamy <input type="checkbox"/> Things floating in water <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen on water |

If other, describe the feature identified: _____

26. Bacteria sample results. If you did not have any features as outlined in question 25, you can skip this question. If you did have any of the features listed in question 25, use one of your *E. coli* test kits provided by the Alliance to test for bacteria in water at the feature listed above. Please refer to Adopt-a-Beach Guide #15 for specific protocol and to determine results. If you are using the Alliance's test kits, fill in: *E. coli* – water and Coliform and leave tests for other types of bacteria blank.

Sample #1 (from the water feature at your adopted beach.)

| Test type | <i>E. coli</i> – water | Coliform | Enterococcus | <i>E. coli</i> – sand |
|----------------|------------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Number of dots | | | | |

27. Are there floatables (items floating in the water) present? Yes No

If yes, please describe the floatables present. (Circle one or more of the options below.)

| Type | Street litter | Food-related litter | Medical items | Resin | Sewage-related | Building materials | Fishing related | Household waste | Six-pack rings |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Example | Cigarette filters | Food packing, beverage containers | Syringes | Tiny plastic pellets | Condoms, tampons | Pieces of wood, siding | Fishing line, nets, lures | Household trash, plastic bags | Use to contain beverages |

28. Describe the amount of debris/litter on the beach. (Circle one of the options below.)

| Amount | None | Low | Medium | High |
|---------------------|------|-------|--------|------------|
| Percentage on beach | 0% | 1-20% | 21-50% | 51% and up |

29. Do you see an oily sheen on the water and/or along the beach? (Circle the appropriate answer.) Yes No

a. If yes, describe. _____

b. Can you identify the source? _____

30. Describe the amount of algae in the water near the shore along your adopted area of beach.

| Amount | None | Low | Medium | High |
|------------|------|-------|--------|------------|
| Percentage | 0% | 1-20% | 21-50% | 51% and up |

31. Describe the amount of algae on the beach along your area of adopted beach.

| Amount | None | Low | Medium | High |
|------------|------|-------|--------|------------|
| Percentage | 0% | 1-20% | 21-50% | 51% and up |

32. Describe the type of algae along the water's edge and on the beach. (Check one or more options below.)

- No algae
 Attached to rocks, stringy
 Blobs of floating materials
 No obvious mass of materials
 Matted
 Other

If other, describe: _____

33. Describe the color of the algae. (Check one or more options below.)

- No algae
 Light green
 Blue green
 Dark green
 Yellow
 Red
 Brown
 Other
 If other, describe: _____

34. Please describe and count the presence of wildlife and domestic animals on the beach.

| Type | Geese | Gulls | Dogs | Other |
|--------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Number | | | | |

If other, describe: _____

35. If you find dead birds along the shoreline, fill in the number found in the appropriate box below.

(Refer to Adopt-a-Beach Guide for identification.)

| Type | Common loon | Herring gull | Ring-billed gull | Double crested cormorant | Horned grebe | Other |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Number found dead | | | | | | |

If other, describe: _____

36. How many dead fish are on the beach? _____

37. How many garbage and recycling containers are there within 500 feet of your adopted beach boundary? _____

(If there are no garbage containers on your beach enter 0.)

38. Describe use and condition of garbage containers at this location. (Check one or more of the options below.)

- No garbage cans Designated carry in carry out policy Garbage cans present with no lids
 Garbage cans present with lids Garbage cans well maintained Garbage cans overflowing or knocked over

39. Please add any additional comments or notes about your visit here:

Thank you for your time and dedication to keeping our beaches and shorelines healthy!
