

# Adopt-a-Beach™ Routine Visit Form

**Answer these questions during your beach visit. Use our companion Adopt-a-Beach™ Guide for question by question instructions on how to complete the form.**

**If you have questions about Adopt-a-Beach™, contact [adoptabeach@greatlakes.org](mailto:adoptabeach@greatlakes.org).**

**What to do with your data:**

- Enter your results online in the Adopt-a-Beach™ pages at [www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeach](http://www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeach) by logging into your personal account.
- If you don't have an Adopt-a-Beach™ account, create an account by visiting Adopt-a-Beach™ at [www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeach](http://www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeach).
- If you don't have internet access, mail your results to Alliance for the Great Lakes, 700 Fulton St. Ste. A, Grand Haven, MI 49417 or fax to 616-850-0765

Beach name and location (city and state)

Adopt-a-Beach™ team name

Team Leader

Visit date

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

Number of volunteers

Estimated time spent completing the Routine Visit Form

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.

## I. General Beach Conditions

**1. Air temperature** (Round to the nearest degree.) \_\_\_\_\_

Celsius    Fahrenheit (Check type of measurement taken.)

**2. Wind direction**  No wind    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 please select no rain gauge.)

\_\_\_\_\_ in/cm (round to nearest 10th degree)                       No rain gauge

**7. 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 

**8. 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                       Waves less than 1 foot                       1-2 feet                       3-4 feet  
 5-6 feet                       6-8 feet                       Over 8 feet

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

- Calm     Medium     Rough

**10. 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.

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.

**11. What is the direction of the longshore current?** \_\_\_\_\_ (The longshore current runs parallel to the beach.)

- No current     S     SE     SW     N     NE     NW     E     W

**12. Did you measure the longshore current?**     Yes     No

**13. Comments or resason you did not measure the longshore current:** \_\_\_\_\_

**14. General comments and observations about general beach conditions:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## II. Water Quality

**15. 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.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

pH paper       pH liquid solution       pH meter

**17. Bacteria sample results.** Please refer to the Adopt-a-Beach™ guide for specific protocol and to determine your 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 (blue dots) and Coliform (red dots). Write in "not tested" for any test you do not conduct and include an explanation in the "comments" section.

**Did your team do a bacteria test?**     Yes       No

### Sample #1

Test type	<i>E. coli</i> – water (blue dots)	Coliform (red dots)	Enterococcus	<i>E. coli</i> – sand
Number of dots				

### Sample #2

Test type	<i>E. coli</i> – water (blue dots)	Coliform (red dots)	Enterococcus	<i>E. coli</i> – sand
Number of dots				

**18. Comments or resason you did not conduct the water test:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Some adopters have the ability to use the Global Positioning System (GPS) to calculate where they take their water sample. If you can use a GPS device to measure your sample location, provide your results here:**

\_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ 'N (Latitude)      \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ 'W (Longitude)

**19. What is the water temperature?** \_\_\_\_\_ (Round to the nearest degree.)

Celsius     Fahrenheit (Check type of measurement taken.)

**20. 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. \_\_\_\_\_

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

No smell       Sewage       Algae (decaying plants)       Fishy

Sulfur (rotten eggs)     Musty (wet soil)     Other    If other, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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**22. 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)

**23. Additional observations about water quality:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**III. Bather Load** (Number of people at the beach)

**24. For people IN or ON the water, *not on the beach*, 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 (in and on the water)
Number of people engaged in this activity								

If other, describe the type of activity IN or ON the water:

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**25. What is the total number of people ON the beach, *not in the water*, EXCLUDING YOUR GROUP? \_\_\_\_\_**

**26. General comments and observations at the beach:**

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## IV. Potential Pollution Sources

**27. Identify any of these features up to 500 feet from the beach boundary that are visible.** (See Adopt-a-Beach™ Guide to determine speed of current.)

<b>Is this feature in your beach boundary?</b>	River/Stream/Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Pond(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Wetland(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Outfall (pipe discharging to the beach) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Amount</b> (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
<b>Speed of Current</b> (in seconds)				
<b>Water Color</b>	<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"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Clear	<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"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Clear
<b>Characteristics</b> (Check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Foamy <input type="checkbox"/> Algae <input type="checkbox"/> Debris <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen on water	<input type="checkbox"/> Foamy <input type="checkbox"/> Algae <input type="checkbox"/> Debris <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen on water	<input type="checkbox"/> Foamy <input type="checkbox"/> Algae <input type="checkbox"/> Debris <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen on water	<input type="checkbox"/> Foamy <input type="checkbox"/> Algae <input type="checkbox"/> Debris <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen on water

If other source (e.g. dump, boat launch), please describe the feature identified: \_\_\_\_\_

**28. Bacteria sample results.** If you did not have any features as outlined in question 27, you can skip this question. If you did have any of the features listed in question 27, 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 #17 for specific protocol and to determine results. If you are using the Alliance's test kits, fill in: *E. coli* – water and Coliform. Write in “not tested” for any test you do not conduct and include an explanation in the “comments” section.

**Did your team do a bacteria test for pollution sources listed for question 27?**  Yes  No

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

Test type	<i>E. coli</i> – water (blue dots)	Coliform (red dots)	Enterococcus	<i>E. coli</i> – sand
Number of dots				

**29. General comments about your water test:**

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Some adopters have the ability to use the Global Positioning System (GPS) to calculate where they take their water sample. If you can use a GPS device to measure your sample location, provide your results here:

\_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ 'N (Latitude)      \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ 'W (Longitude)

**30. 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
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

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

Amount	No Litter	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Percentage on beach	0%	1-10%	11-20%	21-50%	51% and up

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

a. If yes, describe. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Can you identify the source? \_\_\_\_\_

**33. Describe the amount of algae in the water near the shore along the length of your adopted area of beach.**

Amount	No Algae	Low	Medium	High
Percentage	0%	1-20%	21-50%	51% and up

**34. Describe the amount of algae on the beach along the length of your area of adopted beach.**

Amount	No Algae	Low	Medium	High
Percentage	0%	1-20%	21-50%	51% and up

**35. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

No algae       Light green       Blue green       Dark green       Yellow

Red       Brown       Other      If other, describe: \_\_\_\_\_



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

<b>Type</b>	Geese	Gulls	Dogs	Other
<b>Number</b>				

If other, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**38. 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.)

<b>Type</b>	Common loon	Herring gull	Ring-billed gull	Double crested cormorant	Horned grebe	Other
<b>Number found dead</b>						

If other, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**39. How many dead fish are on the beach? \_\_\_\_\_**

**40. If there are other dead animals on the beach (not including fish and birds) list them here.**

Type of animal	How many

**41. 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.)

Garbage Containers	Recycling Containers

**42. 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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**44. Did you take any action as a result of your beach visit?** For example: educate other about pollution, contact your park authority to ask them to empty trash cans more frequently.

- Yes     
  No     
 If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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

