

Mid-Atlantic Tidal Wetland Rapid Assessment Method V3.0

Site # _____ Site Name _____ Date _____

Time of Start& Finish _____:_____:_____

Crew _____

Watershed _____

Sub-Watershed _____

lat/long _____

AA shape: circle or rectangle or entire wetland polygon (circle)

AA moved from original location? Yes or No (circle one)

If yes, reason _____

Classification: (circle one) Marine Tidal Fringe Fringing Estuarine Tidal Fringe Expansive Estuarine Tidal Fringe Back Barrier Estuarine Tidal Fringe	Reference or Assessment (circle one)
	Natural, Re-establishment, establishment
	Enhancement, Impoundment (circle one)

What best describes the tidal stage over the course of the time spent in the field? (circle one)
 Note: It is recommended that the assessment be conducted at low tide.

Tide Stage
 H <-----M-----> L
 5 4 3 2 1

Range of Photo Identification Numbers: _____

Stressor Photo Description: _____

Assessment Area Sketch

low marsh or high marsh (circle one)
 Distance to Upland _____ meters
 Distance to Open Water _____ meters

Stability of AA (check one)
<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy & Stable
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginning to deteriorate and/or some fragmentation
<input type="checkbox"/> Severe deterioration and/or substantial fragmentation

Soils
 Depth of organic layer (cm): _____
 Comments on soil sample: _____

Salinity _____ ppt

Vegetation Communities and Features

enter midpoint for each species/combination present using the cover class chart below

_____ Spartina alterniflora	_____ Phragmites australis	_____ root mat
_____ Spartina patens	_____ pannes, pools, creeks	_____ unvegetated, mud or sand
_____ Spart. alterniflora/Spart. cynosuroides	_____ open water	_____ unhealthy marsh- SWD, deterioration
_____ Spartina patens-Distichlis spicata	_____ ditches	_____ other 1 _____

Cover Classes	MidPt	Cover Classes	MidPt	Cover Classes	MidPt
0	0	6-25%	15.5	76-99%	88.5
<1%	0.5	26-50%	38	100%	100
1-5%	2.5	51-75%	63		

Comments:

Qualitative Disturbance Rating						(circle one)
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Low <-----Disturbance-----> High						

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Site # _____

Date ____/____/____

Attribute 1: Buffer/Landscape (All W/in 250m)

B1. Percent of Assessment Area Perimeter with 5m-Buffer

Record Estimated Percent _____ %	Rating (circle one)
Alternative States(not including open-water areas)	
Buffer is 100% of AA perimeter.	12
Buffer is 75-99% of AA perimeter.	9
Buffer is 50-74% of AA perimeter.	6
Buffer is <50% of AA perimeter.	3

B2. Average Buffer Width (max 250m)

Line	Buffer Width (m)
A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
H	

B3. Surrounding Development between AA edge and 250m

Estimate Development _____ %	Rating (circle one)
Alternative States	
0% development	12
>0-5% development	9
>5-15% development	6
>15% development	3

Average Buffer Width _____

Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
Average buffer width 190-250m	12
Average buffer width 130-189m	9
Average buffer width 65-129m	6
Average buffer width 0-64m	3

B4. 250m Landscape Condition

Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
AA's surrounding landscape is comprised of only native vegetation, has undisturbed soils, and there is no evidence of human disturbance.	12
AA's surrounding landscape is dominated by native vegetation, has undisturbed soils, and there is to little or no evidence of human visitation.	9
AA's surrounding landscape is characterized by an intermediate mix of native and non-native vegetation, and/or a moderate degree of soil disturbance/compaction, and/or there is evidence of moderate human visitation.	6
AA's surrounding landscape is characterized by barren ground and/or dominated by invasive species and/or highly compacted or otherwise disturbed soils, and/or there is evidence of very intensive human visitation.	3

B5. Barriers to Landward Migration

% Perimeter Obstructed _____ %	Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
Dist. From Center of AA _____ m	Absent: no barriers	12
	Low: <10% of perimeter obstructed	9
	Moderate: 10-25% of perimeter obstructed	6
	High: 26-100% of perimeter obstructed	3

Shoreline Test Metrics (complete at low tide along open water shoreline)

S1: Shoreline Erosion

	Erosion Rating (1, 0, -1)
Transect #1	
Transect #2	
Transect #3	
Transect #4	
Transect #5	
Average:	

S2: Shoreline Alteration

	Shoreline altered or
Transect #1	
Transect #2	
Transect #3	
Transect #4	
Transect #5	
Average:	

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Coordinates of Transects		
#1		
#2		
#3		
#4		
#5		

Attribute 2: Hydrology

H1. Ditching/Draining (AA only)

Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
No Ditching	12
Low Ditching	9
Moderate Ditching	6
Severe Ditching	3

H2. Fill & Fragmentation (AA only)

Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
No fill or fragmentation	12
Low fill or fragmentation	9
Moderate fill or fragmentation	6
Severe fill or fragmentation	3

Estimate amount of fill _____ % of AA
Dimensions of Fill Pile _____

H3. Diking & Tidal Restriction (250m)

Description of restriction: _____

Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
Absent: no restriction, free flow, normal range	12
Low: restriction presumed (<10% of normal range)	9
Moderate restriction (10-25% normal range)	6
High (26-100 of normal range)	3

H4. Point Sources (250m)

Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
Absent: no discharge	12
Low: one small discharge from a natural area	9
Moderate: one discharge from a developed area or two discharges from a natural area	6
High: ≥ 2 discharges from a developed area or ≥ 3 from a natural area	3

Attribute 3: Habitat (All W/in AA)

HAB1. Bearing Capacity (Hummocks)

	Mark Depth (cm)							
	Plot 1	Plot 2	Plot 3	Plot 4	Plot 5	Plot 6	Plot 7	Plot 8
Water Depth (cm)								
Initial capacity								
Blow 1								
Blow 2								
Blow 3								
Blow 4								
Blow 5 (Final)								
Final - Initial								

AVG= _____

* % of AA in hollows x hollows average (HAB1) = _____
% of AA in hummocks x hummocks avg (HAB1b) = _____
Sum of two weighted averages = _____

Av. of Final - Initial for the 8 Sub-plots	Rating (circle one)
≤ 1.8	12
1.9-4.0	9
4.1-6.2	6
> 6.2	3

Average Final-Initial = _____ cm

HAB2. Horizontal Vegetative Obstruction

Sub-plot	1	3	5	7
0.25m				
0.50m				
0.75m				
Sum				
Veg. type				

Average of 4 Sub-plots _____	
Average of 4 Sub-plot totals	Rating
< 7	12
$< 12 \geq 7$	9
$< 22 \geq 12$	6
≥ 22	3

AA = 8000m² 5% of AA = 400m² = 20m x 20m 400m² = 11.3m radius circle
Buffer = 274,750m² 5% of Buffer = 13,737m² = 117m x 117m

HAB1b. Bearing Capacity (Unvegetated Hollows) if applicable*

	Mark Depth (cm)							
	Point 1	Point 2	Point 3	Point 4	Point 5	Point 6	Point 7	Point 8
Water depth (cm)								
Initial capacity								
Blow 1								
Blow 2								
Blow 3								
Blow 4								
Blow 5								
Final - Initial								

AVG=

HAB3-5. Plant Community Worksheet

Floating or Aquatic Spp	Invasive? Y/N	Co-dom?	Short spp <0.3m	Invasive?	Co-dom?
Medium spp 0.3-0.75m	Invasive?	Co-dom?	Tall spp 0.75-1.5m	Invasive?	Co-dom?
Very Tall spp >1.5m	Invasive?	Co-dom?	(A) # of Plant Layers		
			(B) Total # of Native co-dominant species for all layers combined		
			(C) Total # of Invasive co-dominant species for all layers combined		
			(D) % of Invasive co-dominant species for all layers combined C/(B+C)		
			(E) % Invasive cover in AA		

HAB3. # of Plant Layers (A)

Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
4-5 layers	12
2-3 layers	9
1 layer	6
0 layer	3

HAB4. % Co-Dominant Invasive Species (D)

Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
0-15%	12
16-30%	9
31-45%	6
46-100%	3

HAB5. % Invasive Cover in AA (E)

Alternative States	Rating (circle one)
0%	12
>0-25%	9
26-50%	6
>50%	3

COMMENTS:

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Site Number:	Site Name:	Date: ___/___/___
Attributes and Metrics	Scores	Comments
Buffer/Landscape	Raw #	
B1. % of AA Perimeter with 5m Buffer		
B2. Average Buffer Width		
B3. Surrounded Developed		
B4. 250 Landscape Condition		
B5. Barriers to Landward Migration		
((($\sum(B1,B2,B3,B4,B5)$)/60)*100)-25)/75)*100 = Buffer Attribute Score	Score	
Hydrology	Raw #	
H1. Ditching & Draining		
H2. Fill & Fragmentation		
H3. Diking/Restriction		
H4. Point Sources		
(((($\sum(H1,H2,H3,H4)$)/48)*100)-25)/75)*100 = Hydrology Attribute Score	Score	
Habitat	Raw #	
HAB1. Bearing Capacity		
HAB2. Horizontal Vegetative Obstruction		
HAB3. Number of Plant Layers		
HAB4. Percent Co-dominant Invasive Species		
HAB5. Percent Invasives		
(((($\sum(HAB1,HAB2,HAB3,HAB4,HAB5)$)/60)*100)-25)/75)*100 = Habitat Attribute Score	Score	
((Buf/Land + Hydrology + Habitat Attribute Scores)/3)= Final Score		Final Score = _____