MarineGEO

THE TENNENBAUM
MARINE OBSERVATORIES NETWORK

Ocean Bitemap:
Site Characterization Protocol

2016-04-13

Bitemap Site Characterization Protocol

Overview:

The physical environment is a primary driver of marine community characteristics. Here we present a method for measuring several metrics that are known to have strong influence on animal and plant communities in coastal habitats. While collecting data on all the metrics is ideal, we welcome data collected on any of the metrics listed below according to the protocol.

Materials:

ITEM	*QUANTITY*
temperature probe	1
salinity probe/refractometer	1
GPS unit	1

Getting Prepared:

1) Gather all your supplies. If calibration is required for your temperature and/or salinity probe be sure that it has been done.

2) For each place that you take an individual measurement, you will also take a GPS point, either directly from a GPS unit (preferred), or by orienting yourself to landmarks and determining the GPS points on Google Earth (or similar).

3) Haphazardly choose three spots within your site for taking temperature/salinity measurements. They should all be in the subtidal zone (if possible), and at least 10m apart from each other.

Note: Be sure to consult tide predictions for your area so you can ensure that you are sampling in the subtidal zone.

Temperature/Salinity:

4) Take GPS point (if using GPS on site).

5) Take temperature/salinity measurement according to manufacturers specifications for your particular probe. Measurements should be made at least 20cm below the water's surface.

6) Record data on your data sheet.

7) Repeat at each of the haphazardly selection spots within your site

Note: These measurements should be taken at the time of all Squidpop and seine deployments/recoveries. We recommend taking the measurements before *deploying Squidpops and* after *conducting seine activities to minimize disturbance that might impact the other observations. You will do this protocols at both vegetated and unvegetated sites.*

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Site Name			(circle one)
Latitude (decimal)		Date (yyyymmdd)	Seagrass/Unvegetated
Longitude (decimal)		Time (24hr, hhmm)	

	TEMP (C)	SAL (PPT)	Notes
Point 1			
Point 2			
Point 3			

Site Name			(circle one)
Latitude (decimal)		Date (yyyymmdd)	Seagrass/Unvegetated
Longitude (decimal)		Time (24hr, hhmm)	

	TEMP (C)	SAL (PPT)	Notes
Point 1			
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Point 3			

Data Collector ______________________

Contact Email ______________________