

CLCP COMMUNITY LITTER CLEANUP PROGRAM

An Introduction to Marine Debris Survey



WSU EXTENSION
Island County

CLCP Prepares to Survey Marine Debris

See full document pdf of NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project Shoreline Survey Guide

<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/file/5834/download?token=L4Y2r8Gj>.

“Data collected using the methods in this guide can be entered into a secure MDMAP database managed by NOAA where it is viewable and accessible by other researchers and members of the public worldwide.” (5)

**Survey Supplies
and Site Selection**

**Select and
Survey
Transects**

**Complete Survey
Forms and Take
Pictures**

As CLCP prepares to move toward a more scientific process of litter cleanup, the NOAA Survey Guide offers explanations and instructions which we will follow to begin surveying marine debris. The point of the project is to secure viewable and verifiable data available for researchers and the public. Much of our beach cleanups have followed a relaxed protocol, whereas now we will be canvassing not only to remove debris but to identify and label it for statistical analysis. This is a giant leap forward for CLCP and brings us one step closer to extending knowledge in and of our community.



Survey Supplies:

Camera, GPS Unit or App, Back-up Power, Surveyors Wheel, and Transect Markers

Cell phone or camera	To take photos of the debris, the site, and survey activities
GPS Unit	To record GPS points of the four corners when establishing a survey site
Back-up Power	For cell phones, GPS and camera-sometimes backup power can save the day.
Surveyor's Measuring Wheel	To measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full 100-meter site length when establishing a site • The distance to the start of each transect during surveys • The width of the beach from the back barrier to the water's edge for each transect (5)
Transect Markers	To mark at least the beginning of each transect. Extra flags are helpful to mark the edges of the transect and to create a line from the back barrier to the water's edge. (5)

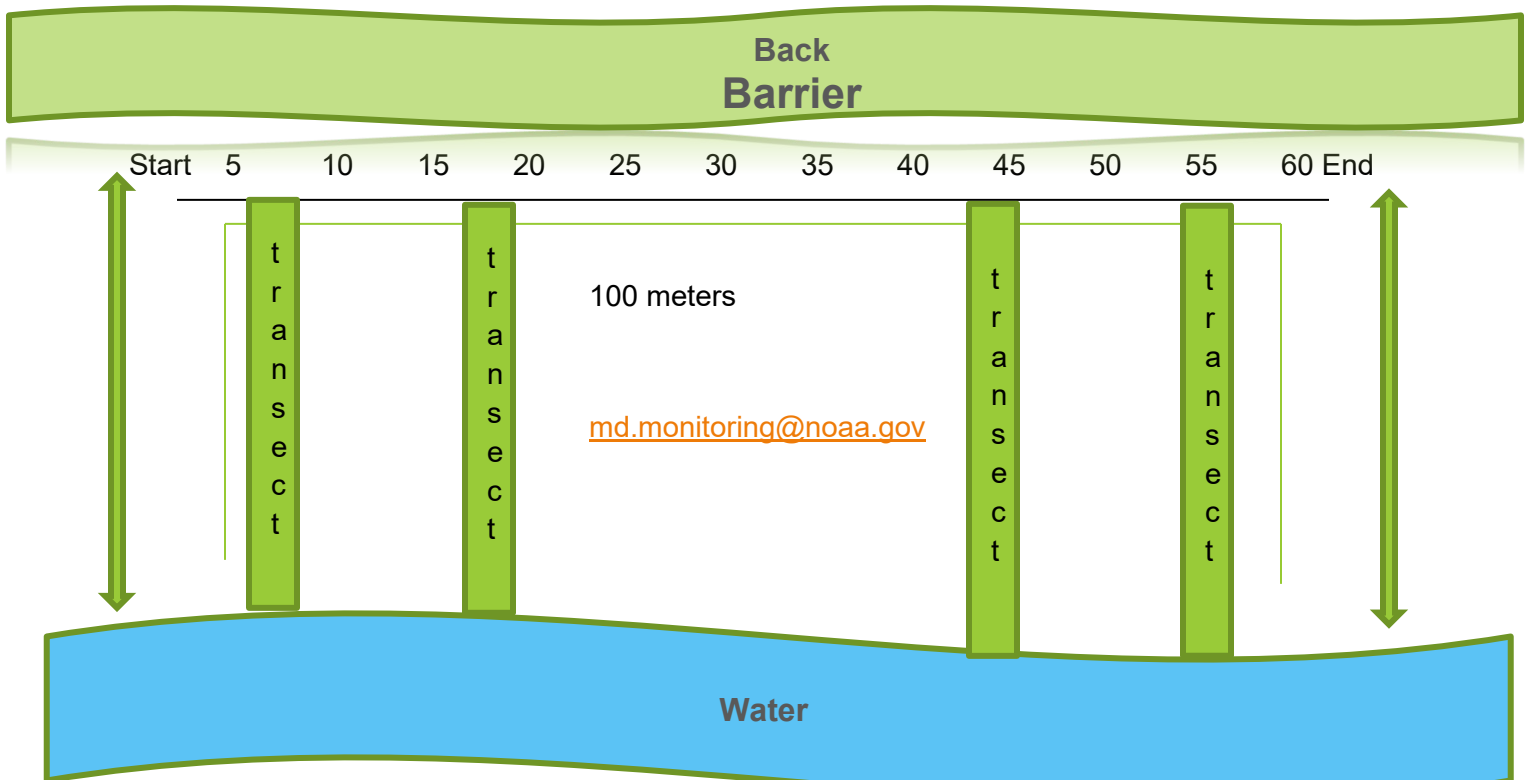


Select Site and Survey Transects

Site Qualifications:

- Clear, Direct Access
- Be within a continuous section of shoreline that is at least 100 meters in length parallel to the water
- Marked with a permanent landmark at the start or end to help identify and return to the exact location over time.

Diagram from MDMAP Guide, Page 7.



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Complete Survey Forms and Take Pictures

1. Search for items below the back barrier (main beach) by walking the perimeter of the transect.
2. To search the back barrier, stand at the boundary where it begins and look 2 meters in.
3. Record item counts in the main beach and back-barrier sections of the transect Survey Form.

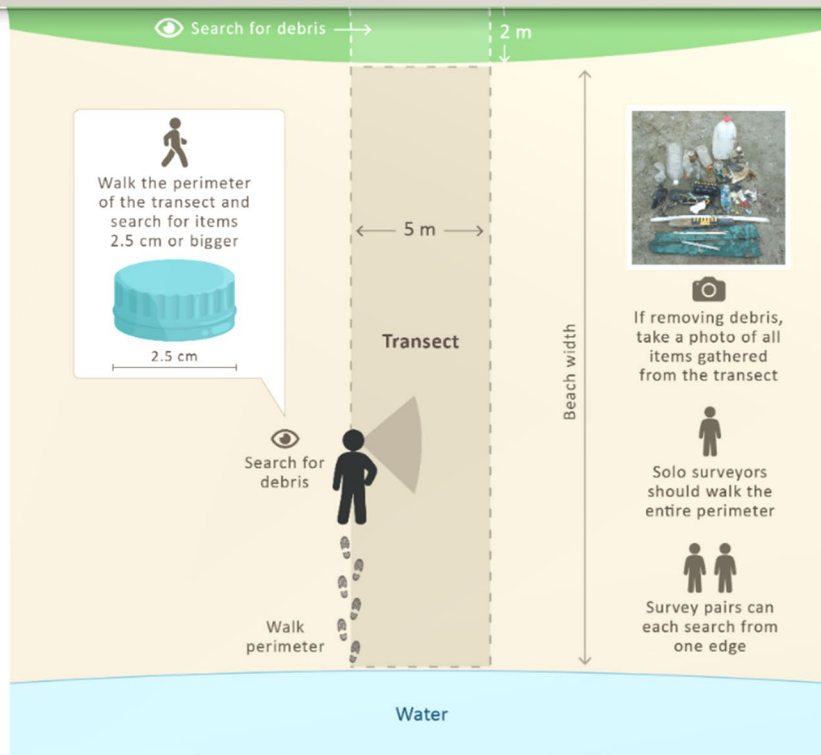


Diagram 3. Search for items below the back barrier (main beach) by walking the perimeter of the transect. To search the back barrier, stand at the boundary where it begins and look 2 meters in, if applicable. Record item counts in the



A Note for Volunteers!

It is not easy to look around at a beach cleanup and feel a sense of accomplishment. Quite honestly, it is the camaraderie of an invested group of individuals in which one takes solace. Especially during the coming winter months, when the chilly air breathes upon the water and the water carries with it a steady interjection of plastics. It is not as if a piece floating here or there awaits cleanup, but millions of fragments find a home on shorelines and in marine life.

With an endless task ahead, what is it then that the group hangs its hat on? What job is well accomplished and what goal is earned? These are some of the questions people have asked and tend to think to apply to beach cleanup groups. However, it is not what drives them. There is never a completed task, hardly ever a job well done because even when the group has a successful cleanup, the larger realization is always there.

What drives this group is the knowledge that when they lay down at night, they have done their best for the planet. Recycling and reusing are urgent, home-grown, and homemade a given, but then there is the necessity to right the wrong of plastics. If we did not create them, we would use them and purchase them. We have been the generation of plastic and that is the mark we have left.

Now we are on a mission to right the wrong of plastic. Hope comes when the group meets together. There is cheering on of sorts, a pat on the back if you will. A comradery that can look at two bags full of collected marine debris and form a huge smile. Some even gather debris on their own, using the Purple Card Program. But it is hard to see the difference one makes on one's own; it takes true optimism. For most, it is finding strength in numbers and knowing a collective impact. Not perfection, just effort.

This is the group of volunteers that make up CLCP. Even when one is beach collecting yards apart, the group meets again, and the collective has won the day. On that day, on that beach, we beat plastics. And then we will do it again. It is a cheery, dedicated group of people who love the planet and love the island. We welcome everyone over the age of eighteen with appropriate attire.

Thank you to our core group of volunteers who are in it for the long haul. It is a pleasure to work with you all. And as I learn more about plastics, we will learn together and from one another. Next month we will begin a discussion about microplastics. If you would like to take part, please send in an article with a brief summation of your own. We can share collectively because that is always when we are at our best. Who says we cannot save the planet one bag at a time?

This month we are invested in learning NOAA marine debris assessment because October 15 is Orca Recovery Day! We have a sunset beach cleanup from 3:30-5 at Fort Casey. Come and join us!



OCTOBER SCHEDULE

October 4th @ Deception Pass 9-11

October 11th @ Fort Casey 1-3

October 15th @ Fort Casey 3:30-5
(Orca Recovery Day)

October 18th @ Keystone East 1-3

October 25th @ Ebey's Landing 1-3

