

# WAV Habitat Assessment Transect Worksheet



This worksheet should be used alongside **DNR Form 3600-532A Wadable Stream Qualitative Fish Habitat Rating for Streams  $\leq$  10m ( $\leq$ 33 ft) Wide**. Use this worksheet to record data for the seven habitat assessment parameters for all *10 transects* within your stream assessment length. Following this worksheet will ensure your measurements of the habitat in each transect are accurate and averaged equally into your final qualitative habitat score.

## Step 1: Calculate the station length and transect spacing

<b>Circle your unit of measurement:</b>	<b>feet (ft) OR meters (m)</b>
Stream width at starting point =	<input type="text"/> stream width (ft / m)
Stream width $\times$ 35 =	<input type="text"/> stream assessment length (ft / m) <i>(minimum 100m (300ft) to maximum 400m (1300ft))</i>
Stream assessment length $\div$ 10 =	<input type="text"/> transect spacing (ft / m)

## Step 2: Walk *upstream* assessing six of the seven habitat parameters in each transect

<b>Riparian buffer width (ft/m)</b>	In each transect, look at the riparian area on each side of the stream. If the undisturbed buffer appears to be $<10\text{m}$ or $<33\text{ft}$ wide, use your tape measure to measure the width on each side.
<b>Bank erosion (ft/m)</b>	In each transect, measure the height of any eroded banks on each side of the stream with your marked D-net or meter stick.
<b>Pool area (%)</b>	In each transect, observe the number of pools (or measure their lengths) to determine the percentage (%) of the transect that is comprised of pools. Pools are deeper areas with <i>slow-moving</i> water compared to the rest of the stream.
<b>Width : depth ratio</b>	In each transect, measure the stream width and the depth of the thalweg. The thalweg is the main path of deepest, fastest water.
<b>Fine sediments (%)</b>	In each transect, observe the stream bottom to determine the percentage (%) made up of fine sediments (silt, sand, clay).
<b>Cover for fish (%)</b>	In each transect, look for places that provide fish with cover and measure the depth of the water to confirm it is at least 0.2 m (0.7 ft) deep. Determine the percentage (%) of the transect that is comprised of fish cover.

## Step 3: Return downstream measuring the distance between riffles OR bends

<b>Riffle:Riffle or Bend:Bend ratio</b>	Walk the entire length of your station, measuring the distance between riffles OR bends. If measuring riffles (walking downstream), measure from the bottom of a riffle to the top of the next riffle. If measuring bends, measure from the middle of a bend to the middle of the next bend.
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## Step 4: Calculate averages for the full station length and determine a final rating score for the 7 parameters

Use your completed worksheet to calculate averages for each parameter across the entire station length. Then fill out the *DNR Wadable Stream Qualitative Fish Habitat* form with your final rating scores.

