INTRO: BASIC LOCATION INFORMATION

Name of beach:	Date(s) of survey:
Beach ID:	Time(s) of survey:
Name of waterbody:	Name(s) of surveyor(s):
Sampling station(s)/ID:	Surveyor affiliation:

WQX organizational ID:

Sampling location   Latitude: Longitude:

Dates of swim season   Start: End:

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Will the data collected use an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)?   yes   no

PART 1: WEATHER AND GENERAL BEACH CONDITIONS

Weather Conditions

Survey the weather using the method of your choice. You may use the National Weather Service as your source.

Air temperature: _____ °C or °F	Method for temperature: (check one) □ Liquid-in-glass therm. □ Electronic thermometer
Wind speed: _____ units: _____	□ Weather app □ Weather report: from airport or weather station? □ Other: ____
Wind gust speed: _____ units: _____	Method for wind speed: (check all that apply) □ Wind vane for direction □ Weather app
Wind direction: _____	□ Wind sock for direction/speed □ Anemometer for wind speed
Is the wind: (circle one) Onshore or Offshore	□ Beaufort scale for wind speed □ Aerovane for wind direction/speed
	□ Weather report: from airport or weather station? □ Other (specify): _____

If you collected wind speed from a local weather station, how far were you from the station: _____ mi or km

How recent was the last rain event: (circle one)	Rain intensity: (circle one) Misting Light rain
0-24 hrs 24-48 hrs 48-72 hrs 72+ hrs	Moderate rain Heavy rain Other:_____
Total measured rainfall: _____ in or cm	Distance to the gauge/station when recording rainfall amount: _____ mi or km

Method for rainfall: (check one)   □ Rain gauge   □ Weather report   □ Weather app   □ Other (specify): _____

Sky condition/amount of cloud cover: (circle one)	Sunny/ No clouds	Mostly sunny/ 1/8 to 2/8	Partly sunny/ 3/8 to 1/2	Mostly cloudy/ 5/8 to 7/8	Cloudy/ Total coverage

Method for weather conditions: (check one) □ Visual observations   □ Weather app   □ Other (specify): _____

Beach Conditions

What are the waves like right now: (estimated, circle one)

Calm (no waves)   Normal (1-2 ft high, estimated)   Rough (>2 ft high, estimated)

How tall are the waves: _____ ft or m	Is the wave height measured or estimated? (circle one) Measured Estimated

Method for measuring wave height: (check one) □ Visual examination of wave height   □ Graduated stick and ranging pole
□ Other:_____

Tidal Phase: (circle all that apply)			
High Tide - the highest level of the tide (high water)	Low Tide - the lowest level of the tide (trough)	Spring Tide - observed high tides are higher and low tides are lower than average (occurs when moon is at new phase and full phase)	Neap Tide- observed high tides are a little lower and low tides a little higher than average (occurs during the 1st and 3rd quarter moon, when the moon appears "half full")

Tidal Currents: (circle one)   Ebb current (an outgoing tide)   Flood current (an incoming tide)   Other:_____

Describe the reference point (e.g., time [hours] since last high tide): _____   Orientation of tide to the beach:_____

Current longshore speed: (see user manual on how to estimate longshore speed) _____ units: _____	Longshore direction: _____

Method for longshore speed: (check one) □ Stick with fishing reel with water balloon on end □ Ball and tether □ Other (specify): ___

Are there rip currents present: yes   no   If yes, describe:

Additional comments or observations

PART 2: WATER QUALITY

Bacteria

List bacteria samples collected at the beach. Potential pollution sources, if applicable, can be recorded in Part 4.

Sample Point	Sample Number	Location (lat/long)	Date & Time	Parameter (enterococci, E. coli, etc.)	Comments

General Water Quality

Water temperature: _____ °C or °F   Water color: (circle one)   Clear   Blue   Brown   Green   Red   Other:_____

Method for water temperature: (check one)   □ Multiprobe   □ Electronic meter   □ Graduated thermometer
        □ Report from local radio station   □ Report from NOAA weather band radio   □ Other (specify): _____

Has the water color changed since the last visit?   yes   no   don't know   If yes, describe:

Select the best description of the water smell: (circle one)   None   Septic   Algae   Sulfur   Other: _____

Measured pH: ____   Measured Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP): _____   Measured Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): ____

How did you measure turbidity?   □ Observed: (circle one)   Clear   Slightly Turbid   Opaque
        (check one)   □ Measured: NTU value: _____   Secchi disc depth: _____

What method was used to measure the turbidity of the water: (circle one)   Simple visual observation   Visual test kit
        Titrimetric test kit   Nephelometer/Turbidimeter   Other (specify):_____

Salinity: (circle one)   0-5 ppt   5-15 ppt   15-40 ppt   Conductivity: _____ s/m or s/c

Measured Dissolved Oxygen (DO): _____   Measured Total Suspended Solids (TSS): _____

Describe other measurements taken and report values:

Document water quality with photographs and detailed descriptions

Additional water quality observations

PART 3: PEOPLE (NUMBER OF BEACH USERS)

Are there recreators (swimmers, boaters, waders, etc.) present at the beach or waterbody?   yes   no

Total people in water: _____   +   Total people out of water: _____   =   Total people at the beach: _____

Total number of boats: _____

Report activities observed on the beach and in the water. Take photographs, if possible.

Activity (swimming, fishing, etc.)						
Approximate # of people participating						

Add any comments and observations about the activities above

Describe notable activities that could affect water quality (Example: babies in disposable diapers in the water):

Method for numbers of people participating in various activities: (check one) □ Counting by surveyor
  □ Counting by lifeguard   □ Photos   □ Turnstiles   □ Other:_____

PART 4: POTENTIAL POLLUTION SOURCES

Identify visible sources of pollutants up to 500 feet from the beach or waterbody boundary. Quantify sources and take photos if possible.

Type of Source	Discharge Source Name	Discharge Source Amount (H, M, L)	Discharge Flow Rate	Discharge Volume	Discharge Source Characteristics
River					
Wetland drainage					
Pond					
Outfall/Pipe (e.g., stormwater)					
Septic (e.g., leaking pit latrine)					
Runoff (impervious surfaces)					
Homeless encampments					
Other (specify):_____					

Did you collect samples and complete the Bacteria Samples section in Part 2?   yes   no   If no, describe why not:

How did you identify the source of discharge? (circle one)   Visual observation   WWTP Notification/Report
    Other (specify):_____

How did you measure flow/velocity or volume? (circle one)   Mechanical flow meter   Electric flow meter
    USGS gauging station   WWTP notification/report   Orange (float) and stopwatch   Other:_____

Are tidal pools present?   yes   no   If yes, how many: _____   What is their average size: _____ units: _____

Floatables and Debris

Are floatables present in the water?   yes   no   If yes, select all types of floatables found: (check all that apply)

  □ Street litter (e.g., cigarette filters)   □ Building materials (e.g., wood/siding)
  □ Food-related litter (e.g., packaging/containers)   □ Fishing-related (e.g., fishing line, nets, lures)
  □ Medical items (e.g., syringes)   □ Household waste (e.g., household trash, plastic bags)
  □ Sewage-related (e.g., tampons, condoms)   □ Other: _____

Method for determining floatables presence: (circle one)   Visual observation   Cleanup event results   Other: _____

Is there debris or litter present on the beach?   yes   no

Select the amount (%) of beach debris on the beach: (circle one)
    None   Low (1% - 20%)   Moderate (21%- 50%)   High (>50%)

Select the types of debris found: (check all that apply)

  □ Street litter (e.g., cigarette filters)
  □ Food-related litter (e.g., packaging/containers)   □ Fishing-related (e.g., fishing line, nets, lures)
  □ Medical items (e.g., syringes)   □ Household waste (e.g., household trash, plastic bags)
  □ Sewage-related (e.g., tampons, condoms)   □ Tar/Oil (e.g., tar balls)
  □ Natural debris (e.g., driftwood, algae)   □ Oil/Grease (e.g., oil slick)
  □ Building materials (e.g., wood/siding)   □ Other: _____

Method for determining debris presence: (circle one)   Visual observation   Cleanup event results   Other: _____

Algae

Is algae present in the nearshore water and/or beach?   yes   no   don't know

Select the amount (%) of algae in nearshore water: (circle one)
    None   Low (1%–20%)   Moderate (21%–50%)   High (> 50%)

Select the amount (%) of algae on the beach: (circle one)
    None   Low (1%–20%)   Moderate (21%–50%)   High (> 50%)

Method for determining amount and color of algae in nearshore water and beach: (circle one)
Visual observation   Other: _____

Circle the types of algae found: (check all that apply)   □ Periphyton (attached to rocks, stringy)   □ Globular (blobs of floating material)
□ Free floating (no obvious mass of materials)   □ Other: _____

Algae colors: (circle all that apply)   Light green   Bright green   Dark green   Yellow   Brown   Other:_____

Is the nearshore water discolored?   yes   no   don't know

If yes, specify the color: (circle all that apply)   Clear   Green   Dark Red   Brown   Yellowish   Other:_____

Harmful Algae Blooms

Is there presence of harmful algal blooms?   yes   no   don't know   If yes, photograph and describe:

Method for identifying harmful algal blooms in nearshore water and beach: (circle one)
Field guide or internet site for taxonomic identification   Other:_____

Are there mats or scum in nearshore waters? (circle all that apply)   Mats-floating   Foam   Scum   None

Are there dead fish or other dead wildlife present with bloom?   yes   no

Have any illnesses (e.g., itchy throat, cough, gastrointestinal) been reported by local or state health departments?   yes   no
If yes, describe:

Is algal toxin monitoring conducted?   yes   no   don't know   If yes, have algal toxins been detected? _____

Have algal species been identified?   yes   no   don't know   If yes, specify the species: _____

Presence of Wildlife and Domestic Animals

Are wildlife and domestic animals present?   yes   no   If yes, document presence with photographs.

Are dead birds found on the beach?   yes   no   If yes, specify the number and species of dead birds

Type	Geese	Gulls	Shorebirds	Ducks	Pigeons	Turtles	Dogs	Horses	Rodents (specify)	Other: _____
Number										

Method for determining presence of wildlife and domestic animals: (circle one)
Counting using hand-held counter and if necessary, binoculars   Other:_____

List the number and species of birds found dead on the beach

Type	Common loon	Herring gulls	Ring-billed gulls	Double crested cormorants	Long-tailed ducks	White-winged scoter	Horned grebes	Red-necked grebes	Other: _____
Number Dead									

Method for determining the number of dead birds: (circle one)
Counting using hand-held counter and if necessary, binoculars   Other:_____

Method for identifying dead birds: (circle one)   Field guide or internet site for taxonomic identification   Other:_____

Are dead fish found in the waterbody or at the beach?   yes   no
If yes, document with photographs and specify the number of dead fish found on the beach or in/at the waterbody

Method for determining the number of dead fish: (circle one):   Visual observation   Other:_____

Additional comments or observations on pollution sources, algae, or animals. Describe any photos taken.