

Wrack cover and biomass protocols: DRAFT

Approach: The export of macrophytes to beaches located near SBC-LTER reefs was estimated by measuring the composition, condition, cover and depth of macrophyte wrack on shore-normal transects over time. Biomass of wrack was estimated from volume for each species/type. Habitat available for deposition was estimated by measuring upper beach zone widths on each date.

Surveys were conducted on 0.75 m (2.5 ft) or lower tides and could span the period preceding and following the low tide.

Sampling unit and replication: A total of 3 shore-normal transects was sampled per site.

To estimate the standing crop of macrophyte wrack, the cover and composition of wrack was measured using a line intercept method along each of three shore-normal transects. All wrack, debris, driftwood, carrion, or tar of 0.01 m or more in width that intersects the transect line was measured, categorized, and recorded. The total width of wrack encountered was then totaled for each transect. Wrack cover can be expressed as square meters of wrack m^{-1} of beach shoreline.

The maximum depth of each pile of wrack was measured to the nearest cm and recorded then used to estimate wrack volume along each transect.

All wrack was collected for a 1 m wide band of beach centered on each transect, separated by taxon and condition (wet/dry) and weighed with a spring scale. This yields an estimate of grams of wrack per meter of shoreline.