Wrack cover survey protocol

Approach: The export of macrophytes to beaches was estimated by measuring the composition, cover and depth of macrophyte wrack on shore-normal transects during each beach survey for biota. Surveys were conducted on 0.75 m (2.5 ft) or lower tides and could span the period preceding and following the low tide.

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 0.005 m or more in width that intersected the transect line was measured, categorized, and recorded.

Sampling unit and replication: 3 shore-normal transects were sampled per site and date. Length of individual transects varied with the beach width.

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 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.