



Vegetation monitoring

Why monitor vegetation and the equipment needed


Vegetation Monitoring

Long term vegetation monitoring of saltmarsh community can provide valuable information on the impacts of climate, disturbance and the general health and productivity of this important habitat.



Learning Objectives

- Understand the value of long term vegetation monitoring
- Understand the methods used to provide consistent data for research scientists



Equipment to set up Transects

Here is some of the equipment you need to proceed with saltmarsh vegetation monitoring:

- 60 M tape (two or three)
- Pegs/stakes to mark the end of each transect
- Mallet to push pegs into the substrate
- GPS to record position of each end of the transect

Equipment to conduct Monitoring

- Digital Camera
- 1 M square quadrat (plots and transect data)
- 250 mm square quadrat (gastropod counts)
- Sorting trays (gastropod counts)
- Pegs to mark sample plots
- Drop rod (10 X 800mm) and 1 M PVC pipe (compact)
- Measuring tape and ruler
- Recording sheet for plot data

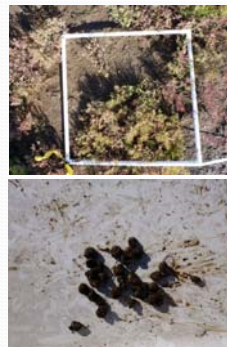
Transect Monitoring Tasks

- Setting up tapes for transects
- Recording GPS marks (transects and plots)
- Photographing transect images
- Recording frame numbers
- Download images to file folders



Plot Monitoring Tasks

- Set out quadrats and mark plots (pegs and GPS)
- Photograph 1 M plots
- Record frame numbers on recording sheet
- Measure soil compaction with drop rod
- Snail identification and count
- Record species and numbers



Personal Equipment

Vegetation monitoring can take a few hours so it is important that volunteers are well protected by:

- Wearing sun sense clothing
- Appropriate footwear
- Applying sun lotion and if necessary insect repellent
- By bringing appropriate amounts of fluids
- Having a first aid kit on hand