

South Florida/Caribbean Network

National Park Service
Inventory and Monitoring Division



Standard Operating Procedure CR17

Rapid Habitat Assessment Database Data Entry and Verification—Version 2.1

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Summary

Rapid habitat assessments are used to evaluate sites for benthic monitoring. Prior to selection for monitoring sites are assessed using a rapid habitat assessment (see SOP CR08 *Conducting Rapid Habitat Assessments—Version 2.1* (SFCN 2025)). The SOP below describes the data entry of data collected during a rapid habitat assessment.

Revision Log

Revision Date	Author	Changes Made	Reason for Change	New Version #
2008	Brian Witcher	Creation of database and entering of initial site investigation data in DRTO. Initial data entry of transect data occurred in Excel and then was appended into database.	Needed a database to hold site investigation data for extensive sub-sites in DRTO.	1.00
2014	Brian Witcher	Modification of database, documentation, and cleanup. SOP created for data entry. Substrate type and benthic code become 2 separate columns. All data entry occurs within database.	Decision was made to add database and associated SOP into the Coral Protocol.	1.01
2015	Brian Witcher	SOP written and added to protocol.	Tied to I & M 2.0 version of protocol. No version with legacy protocol.	2.0
2020	Judd Patterson	SOP name changed from 17 to CR17.	Renamed according to regional guidance.	2.1

Procedures

This rapid habitat assessment database has not been needed since 2009, so this database is out of date. If monitoring is ever expanded to additional sites, and this SOP is needed, the database will need to be updated to the latest database standards.

1. Open RHA.mdb using Microsoft Access.
X:\SFCN\Vital_Signs\Marine_Benthic_communities\CoralMonitoring\data.
2. Click on the new record arrow (green circle) to create a record (Figure 1)

The screenshot shows the 'frm_HabitatAssessment' form. It includes fields for SITEID (3932A), DiveDate (11/14/2009), DiveTime (15:50), DepthMin (21), DepthMax (21), LowRugo (1), MediumRi (0), HighRugc (0), Hardbotto (0), SandPrint (10), Rubble (90), LiveCoral (0), Gorgoniar (5), Sponges (2), Macroalg (30), BareTurFL (63), Diadema (absent), Conch (absent), Lobster (present), Plankivork (low), Herbivore (low), MobileInv (low), and Piscivores (low). There are also checkboxes for SpurAndGroove, PatchReef, Aggregate, ScatteredCoralRock, Pavement, RockBoulder, ReefRubble, PavementSandChanr, Sand, SeagressContin, SeagressPatchy, SeagressSparse, MacroalgaeCon, MacroalgaePat, and MacroalgaeSpa. A 'Notes' section contains the text: 'Observers: Matt and Elsa. No lionfish in 50m x 4m transect.' The bottom status bar shows 'Record: 3 of 228', a green circle around the 'New Record' button, 'No Filter', and a 'Search' button.

Figure 1. Screen capture showing RHA data entry form and arrow to create a new record.

3. Enter data following the tab order.
4. To enter Line Point Intercept data open *tbl_TransectData*.

tbl_TransectData					
OBJECTID	SiteID	Transect	Substrate	CoralSpp	
18548	O-35	south	H	MILA	
18549	O-35	south	S	T	
18550	O-35	south	H	MACA	
18551	O-35	south	H	MACA	
18552	O-35	south	H	GO	
18553	O-35	south	S	T	
18554	O-35	south	H	MACA	
18555	O-35	south	S	T	
18556	O-35	south	S	T	
18557	O-35	south	H	MACA	
18558	O-35	south	H	MACA	
18559	O-35	south	S	S	
* (New)					

Figure 2. Screen capture Line Point Intercept data entry and line on which to enter new data (green circle).

5. Begin entry of a new record by selecting the SiteID using the drop down arrow. Enter the appropriate Transect, Substrate, and CoralSpp. Once all records have been entered close the table.

Verification

1. To verify RHA data sheets open *frm_HabitataAssessment*. Sites are in alphabetical order. Scroll to the site you are trying to verify. Compare values displayed in the database to the original data sheet. Make necessary corrections in the data base and write the date and your initials in the top right corner of the data sheet.
2. To verify line point intercept data open *tbl_TransectData*. Sites are listed in alphabetical order. Scroll down to the site that you wish to verify. Compare data in the table to that recorded on the data sheet. Make any necessary corrections. Once you have completed the verification of a data sheet write the date and your initials in the top right corner of the data sheet.

Literature Cited

South Florida/Caribbean Network (SFCN). 2025. Conducting rapid habitat assessments—Version 2.1. South Florida/Caribbean Network Standard Operating Procedure NPS/SFCN/SOP—CR08. South Florida/Caribbean Network, Palmetto Bay, Florida. Available at: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2309547> (last accessed April 2025).