

# MSWS Waterbody Walk Form

Water Body Name:

Date:

Location:

Time:

## Waterbody Conditions:

- What color is the water body? (Check all that apply) ☐ clear ☐ oily ☐ black  
☐ foamy ☐ green ☐ brown ☐ other
- What does the water smell like? ☐ No odor ☐ rotten egg  
☐ gasoline or oil ☐ chemical ☐ chlorine ☐ sewage  
☐ rotting ☐ fishy

## Waterbody flow/current:

- How fast is the water moving? ☐ very fast ☐ fast ☐ slow ☐ very slow  
☐ NA
- How strong is the tide? ☐ very strong ☐ strong ☐ weak ☐ very weak  
☐ NA

## Waterbody bottom:

- What is the composition of the waterbody bottom? (check all types that you see)  
☐ sand ☐ gravel ☐ boulders ☐ bedrock  
☐ silt ☐ other ☐ man-made material
- What materials form most of the waterbody bottom (in blanks write 1=most common, 2=second most common, etc.) ☐ Sand ☐ gravel ☐ boulders  
☐ bedrock ☐ silt ☐ other ☐ man-made material

## Presence of algae:

- Are algae present? (algae are a variety of aquatic photosynthetic organisms, check all that you observe.) ☐ not present ☐ present in spots ☐ attached to rocks ☐ everywhere ☐ floating ☐ matted on water surface
- If present, what color are the algae? (check all that you observe) ☐ light green  
☐ dark green ☐ blue-green ☐ brown ☐ red  
☐ orange

## Presence of fish, amphibians, and reptiles:

- Do you see any fish in the waterbody? ☐ yes ☐ no
- Do you see any amphibians or reptiles? ☐ yes ☐ no
- Do you see any dead fish, amphibians, or reptiles? ☐ yes ☐ no

(survey continued next page)

**Habitat canopy conditions:**

- As you look at the vegetation (trees and shrubs) surrounding the waterbody, estimate how much of the surface area of the waterbody is shaded by trees. \_\_\_\_\_ Completely shaded  
\_\_\_\_\_ >50% shaded \_\_\_\_\_ <50% shaded \_\_\_\_\_ almost no or no shade

**Bank conditions:**

- Looking back at the bank of the waterbody or upstream (if you are at a stream location), how much of the bank is covered by plants, rocks, or logs? \_\_\_\_\_ Completely covered  
\_\_\_\_\_ >50% covered \_\_\_\_\_ <50% covered \_\_\_\_\_ not covered

**Land and water use:**

- How is the land surrounding the waterbody being used? Look all at areas all around your sampling site and estimate a percentage of the following land use categories:  
\_\_\_\_\_ farming/crops \_\_\_\_\_ poultry/swine \_\_\_\_\_ pasture/grazing  
\_\_\_\_\_ construction \_\_\_\_\_ residential/neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_ forest/native habitat  
\_\_\_\_\_ mining \_\_\_\_\_ manufacturing \_\_\_\_\_ other (indicate the land use type)
- How is the land surrounding the waterbody being used? Look at all areas all around your sampling site and estimate a percentage of the following land use categories:  
\_\_\_\_\_ drinking water supply \_\_\_\_\_ recreation (swimming, fishing, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ industrial water supply \_\_\_\_\_ agriculture/irrigation \_\_\_\_\_ fish and wildlife habitat

**Pollution and debris:**

- Are there any pipes discharging directly into the waterbody? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no
  - If yes, is there anything coming out of it? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no
- Is there any trash in or adjacent to the waterbody? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

**Barriers:**

- Are there any physical barriers in the waterbody that would prevent that free movement of water or organisms living in the water? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no
  - If yes, what does the barrier resemble? \_\_\_\_\_ dams \_\_\_\_\_ bridges  
\_\_\_\_\_ woody debris \_\_\_\_\_ waterfalls \_\_\_\_\_ other

**Please note any additional information:**