

River Habitat Assessment (RHA) Field Recording Sheet

Habitat parameter	Condition category										SCORE	
1. Deposited sediment	<i>The percentage of the stream bed covered by fine sediment.</i>											
	0	5	10	15	20	30	40	50	60	≥ 75		
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
2. Invertebrate habitat diversity	<i>The number of different substrate types such as boulders, cobbles, gravel, sand, wood, leaves, root mats, macrophytes, periphyton. Presence of interstitial space score higher.</i>											
	≥ 5	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1		
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Invertebrate habitat abundance	<i>The percentage of substrate favourable for EPT colonisation, for example flowing water over gravel-cobbles clear of filamentous algae/macrophytes.</i>											
	95	75	70	60	50	40	30	25	15	5		
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
4. Fish cover diversity	<i>The number of different substrate types such as woody debris, root mats, undercut banks, overhanging/encroaching vegetation, macrophytes, boulders, cobbles. Presence of substrates providing spatial complexity score higher.</i>											
	≥ 5	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1		
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
5. Fish cover abundance	<i>The percentage of fish cover available.</i>											
	95	75	60	50	40	30	20	10	5	0		
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
6. Hydraulic heterogeneity	<i>The number of of hydraulic components such as pool, riffle, fast run, slow run, rapid, cascade/waterfall, turbulence, backwater. Presence of deep pools score higher.</i>											
	≥ 5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	1		
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
7. Bank erosion	<i>The percentage of the stream bank recently/actively eroding due to scouring at the water line, slumping of the bank or stock pugging.</i>											
	Left bank	0	≤ 5	5	15	25	35	50	65	75		> 75
	Right bank	0	≤ 5	5	15	25	35	50	65	75		> 75
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
8. Bank vegetation	<i>The maturity, diversity and naturalness of bank vegetation.</i>											
	Left bank AND Right bank	Mature native trees with diverse and intact understorey	Regenerating native or flaxes/sedges/tussock > dense exotic	Mature shrubs, sparse tree cover > young exotic, long grass	Heavily grazed or mown grass > bare/impervious ground.							
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
9. Riparian width	<i>The width (m) of the riparian buffer constrained by vegetation, fence or other structure(s).</i>											
	Left bank	≥ 30	15	10	7	5	4	3	2	1		0
	Right bank	≥ 30	15	10	7	5	4	3	2	1		0
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
10. Riparian shade	<i>The percentage of shading of the stream bed throughout the day due to vegetation, banks or other structure(s).</i>											
	≥ 90	80	70	60	50	40	25	15	10	≤ 5		
SCORE	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
TOTAL	(Sum of parameters 1-10)											