



PORT PHILLIP BAYKEEPER SHORELINE SHELL SURVEY



Beach name:

Date:

Start landmark:

End landmark:

Start time:

Finish time:

Survey by:

Measure shell size						
10mm	20mm	30mm	40mm	50mm	60mm	90mm

Email / phone:

Photo number	Name of shell (if known) or clear description of colour & shape	Recent?	Number in survey area						Largest shell size at longest & widest points
			1 to 3	4 to 10	11 to 30	31 to 100	101 to 300	more than 300	
1									L: W:
2									L: W:
3									L: W:
4									L: W:
5									L: W:
6									L: W:
7									L: W:
8									L: W:
9									L: W:
10									L: W:
11									L: W:
12									L: W:
13									L: W:
14									L: W:
15									L: W:



Number of Sand Snail egg masses =



Number of Northern Pacific Seastars =



Number of nurdles =

Notes on beach condition: eg, seaweed present, plastic litter, erosion, dead fish?

Blank area for notes on beach condition.

HOW TO DO THE PORT PHILLIP BAYKEEPER SHORELINE SHELL SURVEY

At the beach:

1. Choose two permanent landmarks at least 40 paces apart to mark the survey area. (eg. pole, tree, pier, bin, street name). Note landmarks at top of survey sheet.
2. Walk slowly along the high tide line to find and collect different types of shells. Include pieces of broken shell if they are obviously different species.
3. When your group reaches the end of the survey area: sort your collected shells in different species (look for different colours and shapes).
4. Record details of each shell type on the data sheet.
 - Write the name of shell (if known) or its colour and shape on the datasheet
 - Estimate number of each shell type in the survey area and tick correct box
 - Use a ruler or the scale on the survey sheet to measure the length and width of the shell
 - Write the length and width of shell in columns on right of survey sheet.
5. Photograph the shell.
6. Repeat the above steps for the next shell species
7. When all shells are recorded in order, note number of nurdles (plastic pellets), Sand Snail egg masses (jelly sausages) and Northern Pacific Seastars found.
8. Check that you've written the survey details (location and date) at the top of the datasheet.

Send us your data:

9. Photograph the completed datasheet and email to baykeeper@ecocentre.com
10. Email your shell photos (in the order they were taken) to baykeeper@ecocentre.com

Port Phillip Baykeeper
c/- Port Phillip EcoCentre
55A Blessington Street

Please tell us if you have any suggestions for improvements.

baykeeper@ecocentre.com

www.bay-keeper.com

Ph. 9534 0670

www.ecocentre.com

Information about shells:

Seashells of South-East Australia
Coastal Invertebrates of Victoria
Australian Marine Life
Bayside Beaches of Port Phillip
Marine Molluscs of Victoria
Victoria's Rocky Intertidal Coast
Museum Victoria

Patty Jansen. Capricornia Publications
Field Naturalists Club of Vic, Marine Research Group
Graham J Edgar. Reed New Holland
Raymond V Lewis
MacPherson & Gabriel. Melb Uni Press & National Museum of Vic
Eds. Rebecca Koss & Dr Tim O'Hara
<https://museums victoria.com.au/ask-us/>

Your survey results will be combined with those of other contributors right around the Bay since January 2009. This will allow us to note any changes in local mollusc communities, show what makes each beach special, provide information for local brochures and perhaps an educational book on Port Phillip Bay shells.