

KML Living Laboratory Grid Set-up

For each study site to be surveyed:

1. Drop buoys at the four corner blocks using the GPS coordinates.
2. Have snorkeler look for corner block and clip buoys to eye bolt.
3. Lay out 4 boundary weighted lines between the four corner blocks and clip to block.
4. Lay out 4 weighted lines perpendicular to “shoreline” (aka US 1, typically across current), clip between each pair of line weights.
5. Lay out 4 transect tapes parallel to shore (along current), pass tape under weighted lines at each pair of line weights.
6. Transect tape transects are identified as 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, or 4-5 moving from near shore to off shore.
7. **Line transect data** is taken at every 0.5 meters along the transect tape, using the 10 types of bottom / aquatic vegetation.
 - a. Data sheet template available
8. **Belt transect data** is taken as “presence” within 1 meter of either side of the transect tape (2 m X 25 m belt), count all individuals using tick marks.
 - a. Data sheet template available
9. **Quadrat data** is taken as “presence” in each row (between the transect tapes) of the grid (5 m X 25 m belt) and is labeled quadrat 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 from near shore to off shore. This can be tricky for new snorkelers to see cryptic crustaceans, mollusks and echinoderms unless they really get close to the bottom. We did not take this data quantitatively during our most recent trip but did do a post snorkel survey for presence / absence information.
 - a. Data sheet template available

Living Laboratory Sites:

KML site (high sponge mortality) hardbottom in front of KML wet Lab, accessible from docks

Outdoor Resorts (ODR1) site (some sponge mortality).

Big Sponge site (LONG) – no sponge mortality, oceanside , off Long Key State park

Fiesta Key (FIE) site – high sponge mortality, bayside, 3 miles from KML

Bamboo Key (BAM1) site (no sponge mortality) bayside, 12-mile boat trip from KML

Tennessee ROA site (TNROA) – oceanside, 25’ depth, approved AAUS divers only

Stag Party East site (TBD) – oceanside, 25’ depth, approved AAUS divers only