

NJ Watershed Watch Network | **MACROINVERTEBRATE TIER 3.1**  
**FIELD AUDIT FORM**

**Instructions:** Observe the volunteer monitor in the field as they run through a full macroinvertebrate and habitat assessment and check off as they perform the following tasks:

- All necessary sampling gear present
- Identify 100 meter stretch
- Identify macroinvertebrate habitat types present
- Begin macroinvertebrate sampling at downstream end
- Used appropriate method for habitat type
  - Disturb 1 foot square area upstream of D-net in riffle area or other sediment
  - Scrape submerged woody debris
  - Jab and sweep vegetation and vegetated banks
  - Rub leaf packs and vegetation
- Take 20 samples from the stream reach, proportional to most productive habitat present at site
- Empty contents of net into sieve bucket after each sample
- Rinse net and sieve bucket into bucket at conclusion of sampling. Check both for clinging organisms and add them to sample bucket.
- Remove larger pieces of debris from sample, checking for clinging macros and adding them to the sample bucket
- Mix up contents of bucket to take a sub-sample
- Remove all organisms from subsample tray
- Take additional subsamples to obtain at least 100 macros
- Tally macros using sheet, down to order or family level
- Complete biological data sheet
- Collect physical measurements (ex. temperature, width, depth) as needed
- Complete habitat assessment data sheet in full using appropriate sheet
- Decontaminate equipment

**TIMING NOTES:**

If after 20 minutes you have not found 25 macroinvertebrates you are to return to the stream to collect more macroinvertebrates to add to the bucket.

If after 40 minutes of sorting you have not found 50 macroinvertebrates you are to return to the stream again to collect a third round of samples to add to the bucket.

If after an hour and a half, and three separate attempts to collect macroinvertebrates to add to the sample in the bucket you are still unable to sort and identify 100 macroinvertebrates you will stop sorting and check the box on the assessment form indicating that you were unable to find 100 macroinvertebrates.