

TABLE 1

BEACH RATING SCALE QUESTIONNAIRE

PHYSICAL FACTORS

	CATEGORIES				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Beach width at low tide	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	narrow <10m	10-30m	30-50m	50-100m	>100m, wide
2. Beach Material	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	cobbles	sand/cobbles	coarse sand	fine sand	
3. Beach condition or variation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	erosional	stable		depositional	
4. Sand softness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	hard				soft
5. Water temperature	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	cold/hot				warm (70°-80°F)
6. Air temperature (midday)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	< 60°F >100°F				80°-90°F
7. Number of sunny days	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	few				many
8. Amount of Rain	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	large				little
9. Wind speeds	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	high				low
10. Size of breaking waves	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	high/dangerous				low/safe
11. Number of waves/ width of breaker zone	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	None	1 - 2	3 - 4	5	6+
12. Beach slope (underwater)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	steeply sloping bottom				gently sloping bottom
13. Longshore current	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	strong				weak

14. Rip currents present

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
often				never

15. Colour of sand

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
grey	black	brown	light tan	white/pink

16. Tidal range

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
large (>4 metres)	3 - 4m	2 - 3m	1 - 2m	small (<1 metre)

17. Beach shape

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
straight				pocket

18. Bathing area bottom conditions

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
rocky, cobbles, mud				fine sand

BIOLOGICAL FACTORS

19. Turbidity

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
turbid				clear

20. Water colour

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
grey				clear

21. Floating/suspended human material
(sewage, scum)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
plentiful				none

22. Algae in water (amount)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
infested				absent

23. Red Tide

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
common				none

24. Smell (e.g. seaweed, rotting fish)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
bad odours				fresh salty air

25. Wildlife (e.g. shore birds)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
none				plentiful

26. Pests (biting flies, ticks, mosquitoes)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
common				no problem

27. Presence of sewage/runoff outfall
lines on/across the beach

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
several				none

28. Seaweed/jellyfish on the beach

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
many				none

HUMAN USE AND IMPACTS

29. Trash and litter (paper, plastics, nets, ropes, planks)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
common				rare

30. Oil and tar balls

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
common				rare

31. Glass and rubble

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
common				rare

32. Views and vistas
Local scene

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
obstructed				unobstructed

33. Views and vistas
Far vista

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
confined				unconfined

34. Buildings/Urbanism

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
overdeveloped				pristine/wild

35. Access

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
limited				good

36. Misfits (nuclear power station; offshore dumping)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
present				none

37. Vegetation/trees (nearby)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
none				many

38. Well-kept grounds/promenades or natural environment

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
no				yes

39. Amenities)
(showers, chairs, bars, etc.)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
none				some

40. Lifeguards

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
none				some

41. Safety record (deaths)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
some				none

42.Domestic animals (e.g. dogs) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
many ————— none

43.Noise (cars, nearby highways, trains) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
much ————— little

44.Noise (e.g. crowds, radios) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
much ————— little

45.Presence of seawalls, riprap,
concrete/rubble ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
large amount ————— none

46.Intensity of beach use ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
overcrowded ————— ample open space

47.Off-road vehicles ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
common ————— none

48.Floatables in water (garbage,
toilet paper) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
common ————— none

49.Public Safety)
(e.g. pickpockets, crime) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
common ————— rare

50.Competition for free use of beach
(e.g. fishermen, boats, water-skiers) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
many ————— few