

BASIC KNOWLEDGE IN MARINE SCIENCES

Edited by

Normawaty Mohammd-Noor



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Chapter 19 Line Intercept Transect

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Introduction

Line intercept transect is method that is used in order to assess the sessile benthic community of coral reef. This assessment is important in determining the percent coverage of coral reef and coral biodiversity. LIT is frequently used in reef monitoring study. The percentages of coral coverage at each coral reef site can be determined using the LIT method as describe by English, Wilkinson & Baker (1997). The community is characterized using life form categories which provide a morphological description of the reef community. These categories will be recorded on data sheet by divers whom swim along the transect line.

Methodology

List of Equipment/Apparatus

- i. SCUBA equipment
- ii. Boat with outboard motors and safety equipment
- iii. Measuring tape
- iv. Underwater slates.
- v. Underwater camera
- vi. Coral life form catalogue aid

General Procedure

For every site, at least 5 transects are recommended at each selected depth. At each transect, measuring tape will be reeled out as far as 100 feet (30.87m) across the selected survey sites (Fig. 1). The tape must remain close to the substratum (0-15cm) at all times and should be