The Education Program at the
New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium
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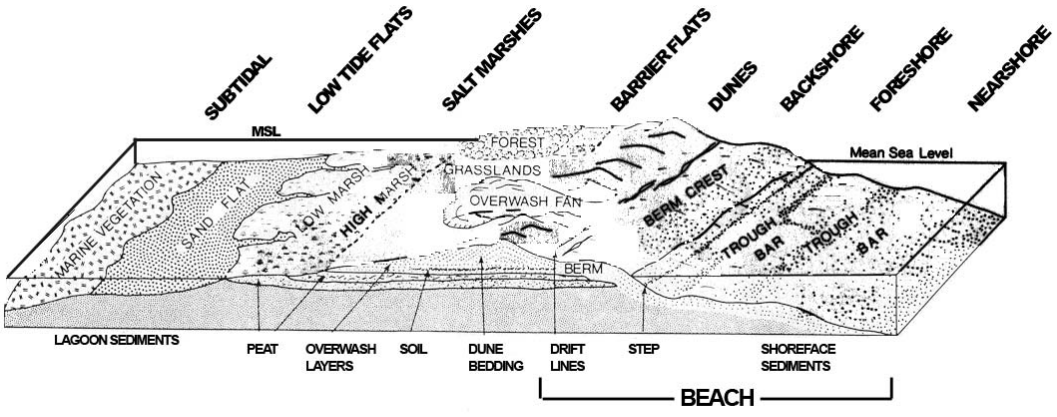
BEACH PROFILING DATA COLLECTION SHEET

Waves, winds and currents shape the beach, redistributing tons of sand each day. A beach profile gives you a side view of the shoreline's surface topography. This data can help you determine storm and water levels but more importantly, when data is gathered seasonally at the same location, you can document how the beach is changing.

DIRECTIONS: Use sighting poles to record the elevation of each site at two meter intervals (or one pole length). Readings should start at the base of the dunes (site #1) and go in a straight line to the water's edge. In addition to elevation data, record observations of each site. Examples of observations might include sand conditions (wet, dry, etc.), sand grain size (fine, coarse, rocky, etc.), evidence of human activity (tire-tracks, debris, structures, etc.) and evidence of plant or animal life. Through observation, try to locate four beach zones and gather a small sand sample at each zone; dunes, backshore, foreshore and nearshore. The following diagram will help you identify these zones, as well as provide you with a crossection of a typical barrier island, such as Sandy Hook.



SITE #	READING	OBSERVATIONS
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2		
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LOCATION PROFILED: _____

DATE: _____ **WEATHER CONDITIONS:** _____

TIME OF DAY: _____ **TIDAL STAGE:** _____

DATA COLLECTORS (name): _____