19. BED MATERIAL SIZE DISTRIBUTION

The size distribution of the bed material is assessed as part of the Comprehensive determination of the Reserve and for the baseline assessment for biomonitoring.

Separate assessments should be made for the hydrological control (e.g. rapid or riffle) and for the most characteristic bar type (if present).

100 points should be selected within each morphological unit using an unbiased sampling system such as every five paces. The size of the material present at each selected point is recorded with a tally mark (/) in the appropriate box. Sediment size can be estimated using a transparent template as provided.

Bed packing and embeddedness are assessed together with bed material size.

Bed packing refers to the nature of interlocking between particles. It is assessed according to three classes:

Loosely packed particles are easily moved by hand or foot, no interlocking.

Moderately packed some force required to move particles due to interlocking.

Tightly packed particles very difficult to move due to strong interlocking..

Embeddedness refers to the condition where spaces between coarser material (coarse gravel, cobble or boulder) is infilled with fine particles (normally sand or silt). It is assessed according to three classes:

Not embedded:

spaces between particles are open.



Moderately embedded:

the spaces around the base of the coarser material are infilled with fines.

Well embedded:



coarse material is more than half buried by fine material.

