**Midden Photography Methods (Annual Survey and Monthly Visits)**

*Equipment:*

* Camera – cell phone or handheld
* 1 meter scale (see website for instructions on making your own)
* Small metric photo scale or metric ruler
* Handheld GPS (optional)
* Notebook

Annual measurements at middens will do a great deal to quantify the rates of erosion, but sequential photos of middens from monthly midden minder visits will help researchers understand the processes that are bringing about the loss.

In taking photographs, it will be important to:

* Show the top and base of the midden. When photographing the midden, make sure that you capture the base of the midden, including some of the beach or substrate and the top of the midden, including some of the vegetation at the top. Stand far enough back from the midden to capture the top and bottom in one image, or take two or more vertically oriented photos with approximately 50% overlap in each.
* Show the entire lateral extent of the midden. In order to document changes, it is important to capture the complete lateral exposure of the midden. If the midden is large, you may need to take two or more horizontally oriented photos with approximately 50% overlap in each.
* Provide a scale Changes from photo to photo can be easily compared and measured if there is a uniform scale in each of the images. It will be easier for researchers to make measurements from the photos if a standard, meter based scale is used.
* Take photos while facing perpendicular to the midden. These images can be collected using a cellphone or SLR camera, either as single images or a panorama. If taking single images, allow approximately a 50% overlap from image to image to allow the photos to be “stitched together” to create a single image. If the midden is large, you may need to move along the midden face.
* Take “big picture” photos from the same location during each visit. Since one of the goals of the effort is to provide a record of change at each midden site, providing images that can directly compared will provide the best data. You can use a fixed natural (rock outcrop, boulder) or human-made feature (wharf, set of stairs) that you will be able to reoccupy as your beginning point during each visit. This may mean visiting the midden at approximately the same stage of the tide each time. These images can be taken looking directly at the midden, or if the eroding face is long, at an oblique angle from either end.
* Make a sketch of the midden showing where you started your photographs. Photograph your sketch and include when uploading your photos.
* Remember to take Midden Description notes, as well as photos!
* Cultural Material: If you encounter cultural material eroding out of the midden and/or on the beach, photograph it before picking it up and with a scale (the end of your one meter scale or a small metric ruler is ideal) in the photo. After you have photographed the object in place, you can pick it up and photo the other side and edges. Any material you find is the property of the landowner. It is their decision to retain, donate, or allow the material to stay in place. Please abide by their wishes