



Down-River Assessment

Mapping
Macca Habitat
And
Threatening Processes

FMR AGM Presentation by Su Wild-River

Overview

- Mongarlowe downriver assessment summary
- 68 potential habitat sites
- Results using adapted national protocols
- Threatening processes

Mongarlowe Downriver Assessment

3+ people, 5 days = 61km of 'bucket science'



Habitat

68 potential breeding sites

- Aerated riffles
- Deep pool
- Bedrock

Assessed using adapted protocols



Habitat for more than the maccas

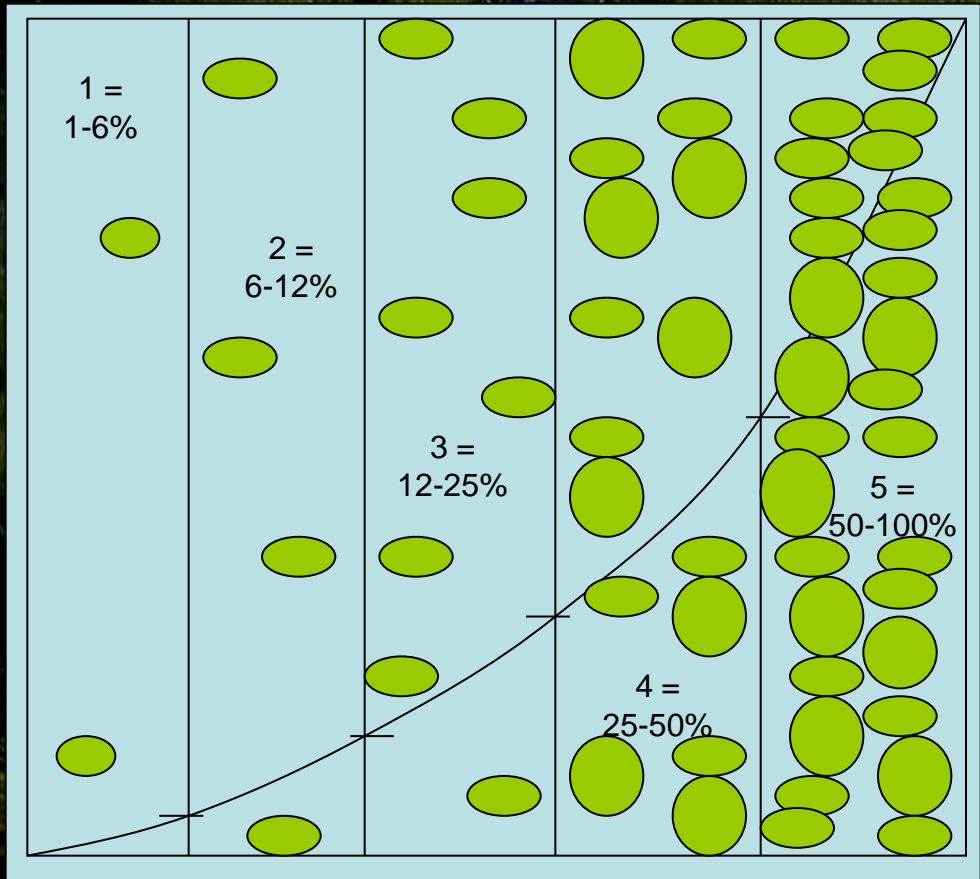


National Protocols



- Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition
- Riverstyles
- In-Stream Assessment
- Water Quality

Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition



Rich mix of trees, shrubs, sedges, grasses, rushes, floating large plants, submerged large plants, fallen logs

River Style

- Mostly partly-confined
- Mostly good condition



In-stream assessment

- Slow pools, moderate-fast riffles
- Substrate dominated by cobble, bedrock and boulders



Water quality

- Mostly clear
- Shallow to $>6\text{m}$



Threatening Processes

- Development
- Clearing
- Stock Watering
- Sedimentation
- Gambusia
- Carp
- Weeds



Development



Clearing



Stock Watering



Sedimentation



Gambusia



Mosquitofish present in lower reaches.
Aggressively chase and fin-nip other species.

Carp



Carp present in lower-mid reaches. Aggressively
Increase turbidity and can undermine banks

Weeds – 130 willows



Weeds – long blackberry patches



Weeds – unidentified aquatic weed



Weeds – patches of honeysuckle, apples,
pines, briar etc



Summary

- Cobble, boulder and bedrock substrate
- Intact riparian zone
- Clear, clean water
- Few weeds
- Few feral fish
- Abundant native wildlife
- Minimal clearing, grazing and sedimentation
- Community conservation Priorities....

