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SCI Fish Protocol

The purpose of fish sampling is to determine the abundance and age structure of surfperch at each of 11 sites along the north coast of Santa Cruz Island. Fish numbers and age classifications are recorded using a set datasheet with young of year, 1 year old and adult as the age structure. The fish counted are four species of surfperch (Black, Striped, Pile, Rubberlip) as well as Garibaldi.

Timing:

Transects at each site are sampled annually in the late summer to fall.

Site/Transect Description:

Each site has 3 permanent 50 meter (m) transects marked at the beginning by a cinderblock with a buoy and the end by a cinderblock. The transects are at three different depth ranges, 30-40', 20-25' and 10-15'. These depths are determined by the composition of the algae growing at the site. The upper transect runs within the Gelidium zone, the next runs at the depth that the Gelidium stops and the deepest is at the lower limit of the Esenia growth.

Method:

The counting diver finds the start of the transect by finding the marking buoy and then swims the deepest (30-40') transect first, counting and age classifying all surfperch seen in the water column as well as in the understory algae between that depth and the 20' transect. At the end of the transect the diver turns, moves to the 20' transect and swims back along the site counting all fish from that depth to the 10' transect. The final transect is swam counting fish 10' to the surface.

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SITE	IN:	OUT:	
	10'	20'	30'
EJ YOY			
EJ 1			
EJ A			
EL YOY			
EL 1			
EL A			
PILE			
RUBBER			
GARIBALDI			

SITE	IN:	OUT:	
	10'	20'	30'
EJ YOY			
EJ 1			
EJ A			
EL YOY			
EL 1			
EL A			
PILE			
RUBBER			
GARIBALDI			