

# SCI Pycnopodia Sampling

## Overview

The purpose of the Pycnopodia sampling is to determine the relative abundance of species *Pycnopodia helianthoides* at each of 11 sites along the north coast of Santa Cruz Island. This data set began in 2003 when there was an influx of Pycnopodia.

## Transect Description

Each site has 3 permanent **50 meter** (m) transects marked at the beginning by a cinderblock or an eyebolt with a float 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.

## Timing:

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

## Methods

The diver finds the start of the transect by finding the marking float and then swims the deepest (30-40') transect first, counting all pycnopodia seen 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 Pycnopodia from that depth to the 10' transect. The final transect is swam counting Pycnopodia 10' to the surface. This survey is typically done in conjunction with the fish survey.