

# Channel Islands National Park's Kelp Forest Monitoring Program

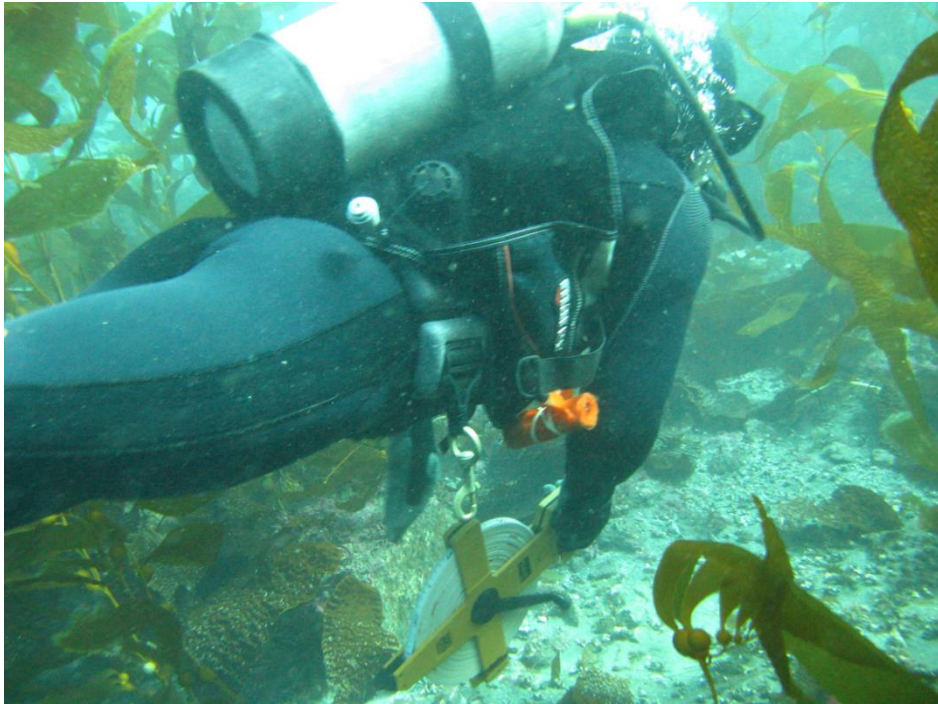
*Protocol reference guide for*  
**BAND TRANSECTS**



# *Abstract*

Band transects are the main protocol for estimating densities for many of the invertebrates that KFM monitors. Often observers will conduct Natural Habitat Size Frequencies while doing bands. Combining NHSF with bands optimizes dive time as many species are on both protocols. This protocol typically takes a large amount of dive time and search effort to complete successfully. There are 12 bands on each side of the transect that each take up a 30 square meter footprint.

**Each diver clips their band tape to the lead line at the designated meter number and swims away and perpendicular to the main transect, out ten meters. The tapes are marked with colored tape at 10-meters.**



**Each band is 10 meters long by 3 meters wide. Divers carry a 1.5-meter-long PVC pole to reference that distance from the meter tape and makes one pass on either side of the band tape.**



Shaun Wolfe



**While conducting bands, it is common to measure animals for NHSF.**



Multiple passes may need to be taken per quadrat to get accurate counts for high density animals like white urchins (*Lytechinus anamesus*). Managing gear may be the hardest part of bands.



## Follow this pattern while conducting bands.

