Channel Islands National Park's Kelp Forest Monitoring Program

Protocol reference guide for

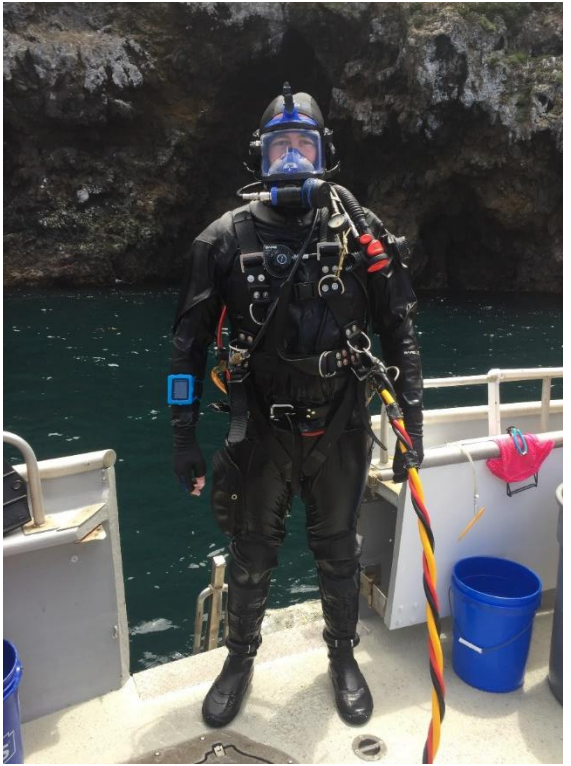
RANDOM POINT CONTACTS

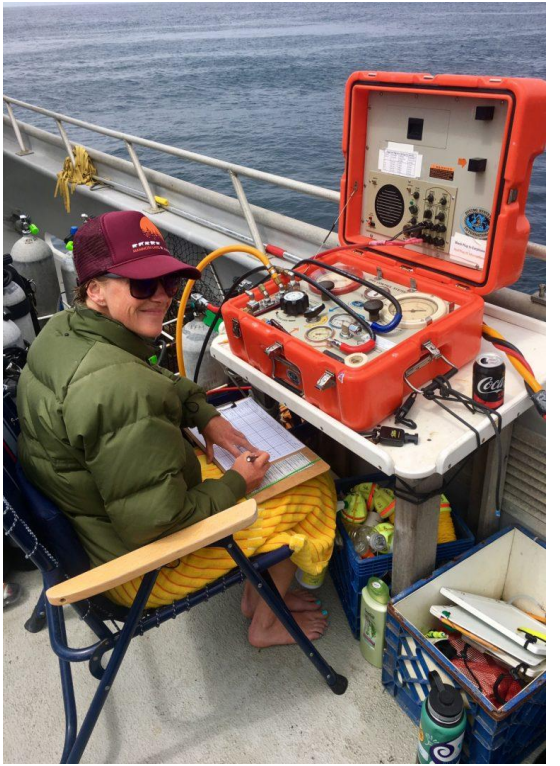
Shaun Wolfe

Abstract

Random Point Contacts (RPCs) is a method for estimating the percent cover for a select group of algae, invertebrates, and substrate. This protocol relies on a surface supplied diver along with a data recorder topside. Utilizing surface supplied diving allows for communications that greatly increase the efficiency of this protocol. The diver has 600 randomly selected points to call out. Each point may have several data points associated due to layering.

RPCs utilize surface supplied diving equipment. This mode of diving requires more training and has its own unique set of challenges.





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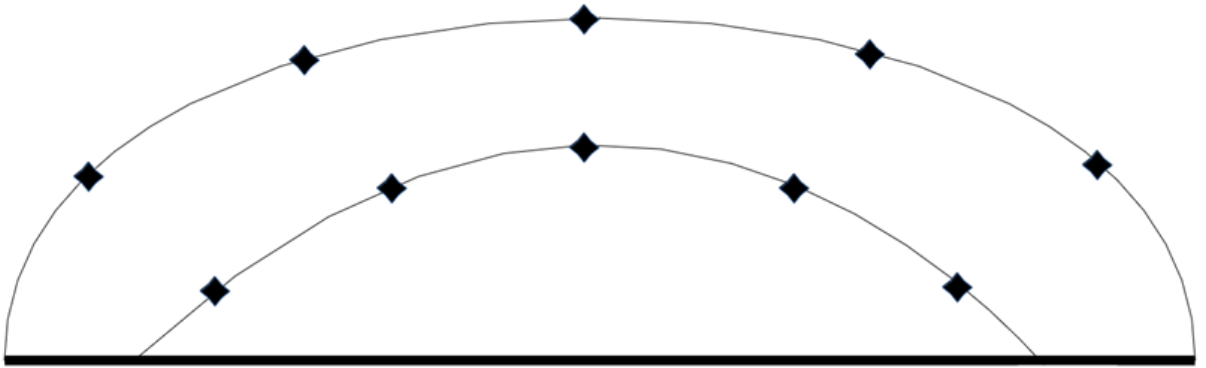
The primary sampling equipment for RPCs is the PVC pole with the two knotted lines affixed. Both lines have 5 knots each for a total of 10 knots.



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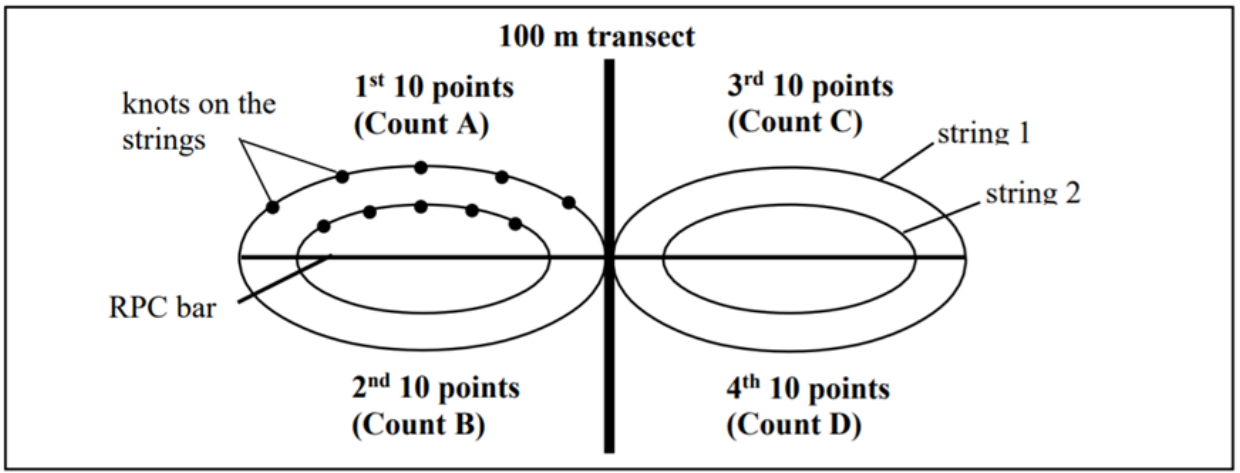
The pole is laid out perpendicular to the main transect line and the line is stretched to each knot giving 10 points to count A (“first 10“). The lines are then moved to the other side of the pole and similarly stretched for count B (“next 10“). For count C the RPC pole is moved across the transect (“other side of the line “). Finally, the lines are moved across the pole once more to be stretched for count D (“last 10”).



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