

Channel Islands National Park's Kelp Forest Monitoring Program

Protocol reference guide for **VIDEO-TAPED TRANSECTS**



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Abstract

Video-taped transects is a method of visually documenting KFM sites. The videos consist of 4 major parts: a brief intro with the site name/date, a surface pan, the 0-100 m section, and finally the 100-0 m section. These 4 videos are stitched into 1 video later.

Each site video begins with a brief shot of a white board consisting of the site name, island name, and the date. Try to remember to remove the red filter.



Next begin the surface pan. This should be done from the sundeck and should start at the buoy marking the site. Slowly pan over the surface in each direction, before settling back to the buoy marking the site. Make sure the red filter is not on.



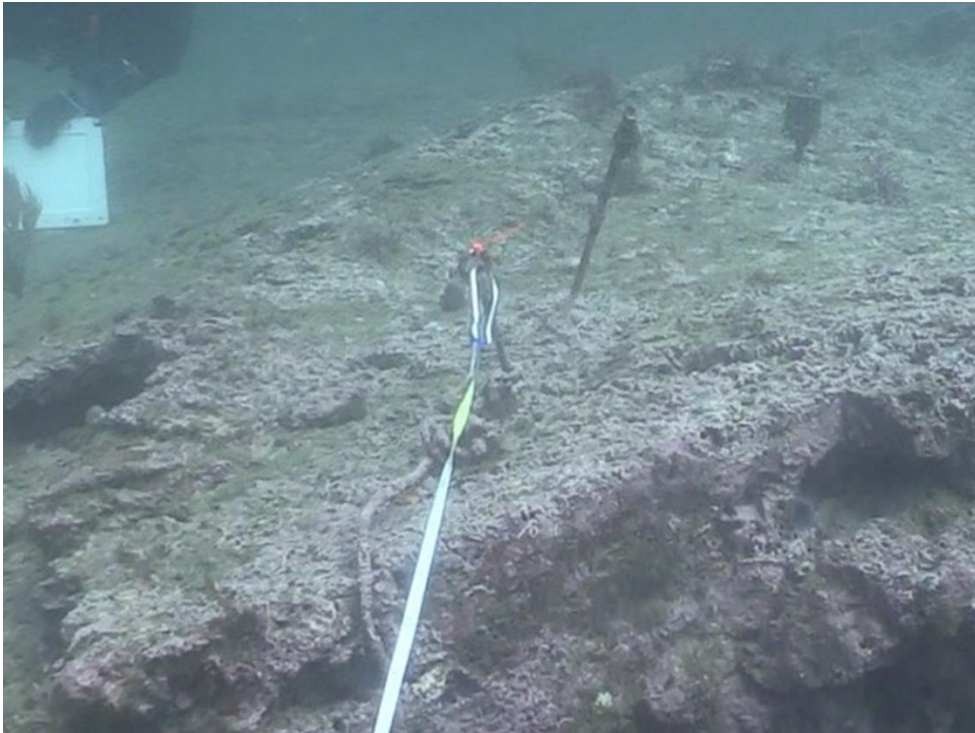
After laying out the transect tape, begin the first underwater video by swimming past the 100-meter mark and off site by a few meters (because of the fish transect). White balance the camera against a white slate with the red filter on. Start with the reel in frame before panning over to the right.



Keep the transect tape on your left and barely in frame on the camera. Swim a couple meters away from the line and a couple meters from the bottom. Try to keep the camera angled slightly down but with the reef horizon in view. Dodge kelp as best as possible while maintain a steady hand.



Finish the first underwater video on the 0-meter mark and start the second underwater video on the same. Then slowly pan to the right and keep the transect tape on your left again.



Once completed, turn the camera off and hang the camera on a small lift bag so it becomes suspended in the water column.

