

ROVING DIVER FISH COUNT Channel Islands National Park Kelp Forest Monitoring Program

Location: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

Abundance key: S = single (1), F = few (2-10), C = common (11-100), M = many (over 100), = not observed

* = indicator species. *All observers must know and actively search for these species during each fish count. Search effort is limited to 30 minutes.*

Experience Level: E = Expert, I = Intermediate, N = Novice (experience level to be determined by the team leader)

See bottom of datasheet for definitions of experience levels and for examples on how to correctly record RDFC data.

Observer Name																		
Experience Level																		
Common Name	Score	Abun	Count	Score	Abun	Count	Score	Abun	Count	Score	Abun	Count	Score	Abun	Count	Score	Abun	Count
black surfperch, adult																		
black surfperch, all*																		
black surfperch, juv																		
blackeye goby*																		
blacksmith, adult																		
blacksmith, all*																		
blacksmith, juvenile																		
blue rockfish, adult																		
blue rockfish, all*																		
blue rockfish, juvenile																		
blue-banded goby*																		
CA sheephead fem*																		
CA sheephead juv*																		
CA sheephead male*																		
garibaldi, adult*																		
garibaldi, subadult*																		
garibaldi, juvenile*																		
island kelp fish*																		
kelp bass, adult																		
kelp bass, all*																		
kelp bass, juvenile																		
kelp rockfish, adult																		
kelp rockfish, all*																		
kelp rockfish, juv																		
olive rockfish, adult																		
olive rockfish, all*																		
olive rockfish, juv																		
opaleye, adult*																		
painted greenling																		
pile perch, adult																		
pile perch, all*																		
pile perch, juvenile																		
rock wrasse, fem*																		
rock wrasse, juv*																		
rock wrasse, male*																		
señorita, adult																		
señorita, all*																		
señorita, juvenile																		
striped surfperch, adult																		
striped surfperch, all*																		
striped surfperch, juv																		
treefish, adult*																		
treefish, juvenile*																		

Location: _____ **Date:** _____

[illegible]

Definitions of Experience Levels

*** Experience level is determined by the team leader. ***

Expert – an observer who can confidently identify and count all species of fish that commonly occur at the Channel Islands.

Intermediate – an observer who can confidently identify and count all indicator species (*) and most non-indicator species of fish.

Novice – an observer who can identify all indicator species (*) but is not able to count them with high confidence. However, if the Team Leader is confident that the Novice is able to accurately count the core or other positively identified species, the counts can also be recorded.

RDFC Datasheet Recording

Novice Observers

For indicator species positively identified, fill in **Score** and **Abundance** columns and leave **Count** column blank.

	Score	Abun	Count
Example:	10	C	

For indicator species NOT observed, only place “---” in the **Abundance** column and leave **Score** and **Count** columns blank. This means the species was looked for but not found.

Example:

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Example:

Expert and Intermediate Observers

For indicator species positively identified, fill in **Score**, **Abundance** and **Count** columns.

Example:

8	F	4
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For indicator species NOT observed, only fill in **Abundance** and **Count** columns and leave **Score** column blank. This means the species was looked for but not found.

Example:

	---	0
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Example:

---	0
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Fish Observed other than RDFC

Fish species not recorded by any observers during RDFC but observed at the site should be recorded in a blank column. To distinguish these fish from ones observed during RDFC give them a score of zero. All observers should combine their observations into the same column.