



SCUBA VISUAL SURVEYS

We use diver based underwater visual census (UVC) methods to identify and count macroalgal, invertebrate, and fish communities. SCUBA divers conduct surveys in rocky reef habitats at depths of 5m, 12.5m and 20m. Divers work in pairs for safety. SCUBA divers survey a 60m² transect counting observed organisms and noting the type of habitat and topographic relief of the substrate encountered. Invertebrate and macroalgal surveys occur along the bottom only. Fish transects occur both along the bottom and mid-way up in the water column. In addition to fish counts by species, each individual's size is estimated to the nearest cm, and species densities are calculated. These methods are based on those developed by the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) and are currently being used to survey subtidal communities in California's marine reserves.

Data collected:



Invertebrates



Habitat



Macroalgae



Fish



Tool Usage	
Depth Range	10-20m
Habitats	Shallow rocky reefs
Sampling Limitations	Calm sea states and a minimum of 3m visibility

