

Lingcod Egg Mass Survey Instructions

FILLING OUT THE DATA SHEET:

DATE:

Fill out the month / day / year

DIVER INFORMATION:

Please put the first and last names of both divers, as well as all pertinent contact information. At minimum please include at least one contact email.

AREA:

The coast is broken down into 22 different areas based on existing biodiversity data. Select your area from the dropdown menu. Select 'other' if you are unsure of your area. A map indicating each of these areas is available on the website.

BOTTOM TYPE:

Please record the primary substrate of your dive. If the dive is half on one substrate and half on another, or over many substrates, please note that when describing the substrate types.

SPECIFIC LOCATION:

Identify the site by the local name; if it's rather vague, give a more specific description. For example, there are many sites called "Octopus Gardens". Let us know what city or town the site is near. Finally, be very specific about where you surveyed in that location (for example: to the right side along the sheer cliff wall between 20 and 60 feet). Submit GPS coordinates whenever possible.

BOTTOM TIME:

Be sure to note the bottom time for your dive. This information is needed to calculate the survey results.

EGG MASS INFORMATION:

In the egg mass information section, use the appropriate selection in the drop-down menu for each column, and be sure to record the depth for each egg mass in feet.

- **Depth** – Note the depth where you found the egg mass in feet.
- **Size** – Estimate if the egg mass is roughly the size of a watermelon (W), cantaloupe (C) or grapefruit (G).
- **Condition** – You may want to bring a dive light along with you. This will aid in determining the condition of the egg mass. Recently extruded eggs will generally be white/pink (N=new). Older eggs will be eyed/dark gray (E=eyed), or rotten (R=rotten).
- **Situation** – Note how the egg mass is situated, either loose (L) in a crevice, or secure (S) in a crevice, or loose in the open (O).
- **Guarding male** – Often one male may guard more than one egg mass. If the male is guarding only one egg mass, indicate so with a "P". If the male is guarding multiple egg masses, indicate so with "P2". If this is observed, record each egg mass as an individual egg mass and be sure to indicate the guarding male as "P2" for each egg mass. If there is an egg mass without a guarding male, indicate the absence of the male with an "A".

- **Sample dive slate with egg mass information:**

EGG #	DEPTH in feet	SIZE	CONDITION	SITUATION	GUARDING MALE
1	18 ft	W	N	S	P2
2	18 ft	W	E	S	P2
3	20 ft	C	R	O	A
4	35 ft	G	E	L	P
5	32 ft	W	N	O	A
6	33 ft	C	E	S	P

COMMENTS:

Please email any additional comments that you believe are worth noting, such a knowledge of sports fishing in the area, recent activities that may have influenced data, or perceived changes in other fish populations. Also, the total number of lingcod that you observed on your dive, including the ones guarding nests, would be very useful information. Be sure to include the date and location of the dive for which the comments apply.

Please try to search only areas with suitable lingcod habitat (areas where you have seen lingcod before).

*****IMPORTANT***** *If you don't find anything we need to know.*

If you do not observe any lingcod egg masses, it is imperative that you record the dive and score zero egg masses found on the data sheet.

- **DO NOT decide to do another dive because you did not observe any eggs on that dive.** A zero count is just as significant as a dive in which 15 egg masses were observed.
- **Just because you did not see any eggs on the dive, don't feel as if you failed to carry out the task at hand.** We expect to see data sheets where the divers did not observe any eggs. This type of data, referred to as negative data, is probably the most significant data in terms of understanding distribution and abundance of lingcod.

WHEN YOU ARE DONE:

Submit data online before the end of March to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QPT2TC7>

If you have any other questions, please contact the [Marine Education and Research Society](#).

HAVE FUN & SAFE DIVING!