

Protocol for Shellfish Spat Settlement Collector Deployment and Retrieval

Materials:

- (8) 4 x 4 ceramic tiles
- (2) PVC spat collectors
- (4) 2' ½" rebar
- Cooler or bucket
- Cloth
- Several permanent markers
- Pencil
- Plastic sandwich bags
- Zip ties



Procedures:

Field deployment:

1. Once on site, locate sensor arrays; one should be in an eelgrass meadow (EG), one should be in bare sediment (BARE).
2. Use pencil to pre-label the sides of tiles with: #s 1-5, site name, “EG” or “BARE”.



3. Assemble tiles in collector starting with #1 and working top down.
 - 2 corners of the tiles will be pre-caulked. This ensures a tight fit in the notches while also protecting the tiles in transit.
 - Place tiles in collector shiny side up and rough side facing the sediment.
4. Use zip ties to cinch together the legs below the tiles. Loop zip ties (2 or 3 may need to be zipped together) through holes in PVC and pull tight. Tiles shouldn't move much once legs are secured.
5. Place spat collectors in a location near the sensors by sliding rebar through the holes in the “T” (see photo) until tile #5 is near, but not touching, the sediment.

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Field retrieval:

1. Use a permanent marker to pre-label a sandwich bag with: site name, date and “EG” or “BARE”.
2. Carefully remove collector from the sediment taking care to prevent loss of tiles.
3. Wet cloth and place tile #1 rough surface down on the damp cloth. Wrap cloth over, then place tile #2 rough side down on top; continue with tiles #3 and #4. Tile #5 stays on site for the duration of the deployment.
4. Place stack of wrapped tiles in the appropriate pre-labeled sandwich bag and into cooler or bucket for transport.
5. Once finished with both collectors, as soon as possible transfer tiles to a freezer or to a cooler with dry ice.