

Instructions/explanation for doing the Rapid Assessment protocol:

These protocols are designed to determine whether we are in fact surveying the crabs at the peak of their spawning, which is our intention. Please try and carry out #'s 1 and 2 ONCE at each beach, preferably on the May full or June new moon – these are typically the biggest spawning times, and preferably on the night high tide.

1. do the rapid survey every half hour for 6 hours straddling the high tide – 3 hours before, 3 hrs after. People can take shifts on this so one person doesn't have to stay there for the whole 6 hours. **You'll need to take 12 copies of the data sheet along for this one.**
2. snorkel if possible or use chest waders to look for spawners as deep as practical and safe (beyond the 5m quadrat area) along the stretch of surveyed beach.
3. do the rapid survey every other day for a month, May 15- June 14. (so 14 quick surveys). This one is great for shorebird biologists who are out there anyway or people who live near the beach and can basically just go for a walk. **You'll need a data sheet for each day.**

In the Comments section of the data sheet, please make a note of which type of survey you're doing: deep, 6 hour, or every other day.

The Rapid Assessment data sheet is available on this website as a pdf.