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### **Title**

The Secret Life of Larval Fish: A Geocaching Adventure

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# The Secret Life of Larval Fish

# A Geocaching Adventure

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What is geocaching?
Geocaching is a GPS-based scavenger hunt in which participants find hidden containers ("caches").

### Where/what are the caches?

There are five geocaches hidden on the Coastal Science Campus. Each focuses on a different aspect of larval fish biology.

## Learning Outcomes

Visitors should be able to:

- 1. Define the words plankton and larvae
- 2. Understand that larval fish do not look and act the same as adults
- 3. Understand that larval fish have special adaptations for life in the plankton

## Project Goals

- 1. Create an interactive, long-lasting learning opportunity in Santa Cruz
- 2. Communicate the importance of larval fish to the public
- 3. Raise awareness of overlooked aspects of California fish species

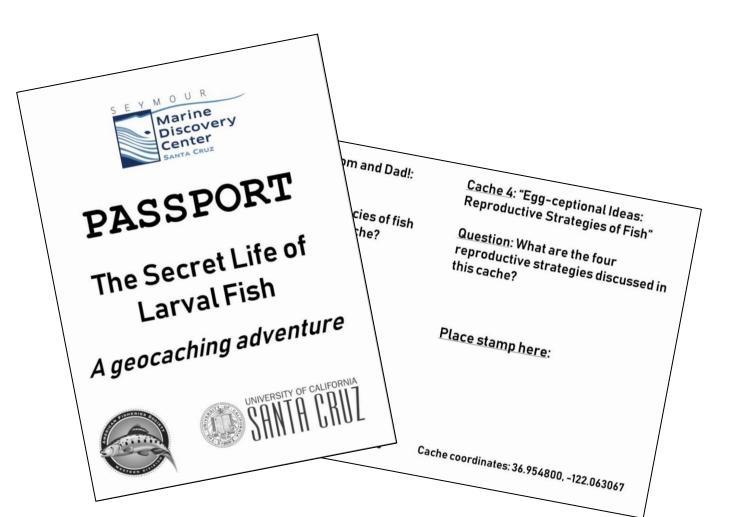
Funding and support provided by:







Participants pick up a geocaching "passport" at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center





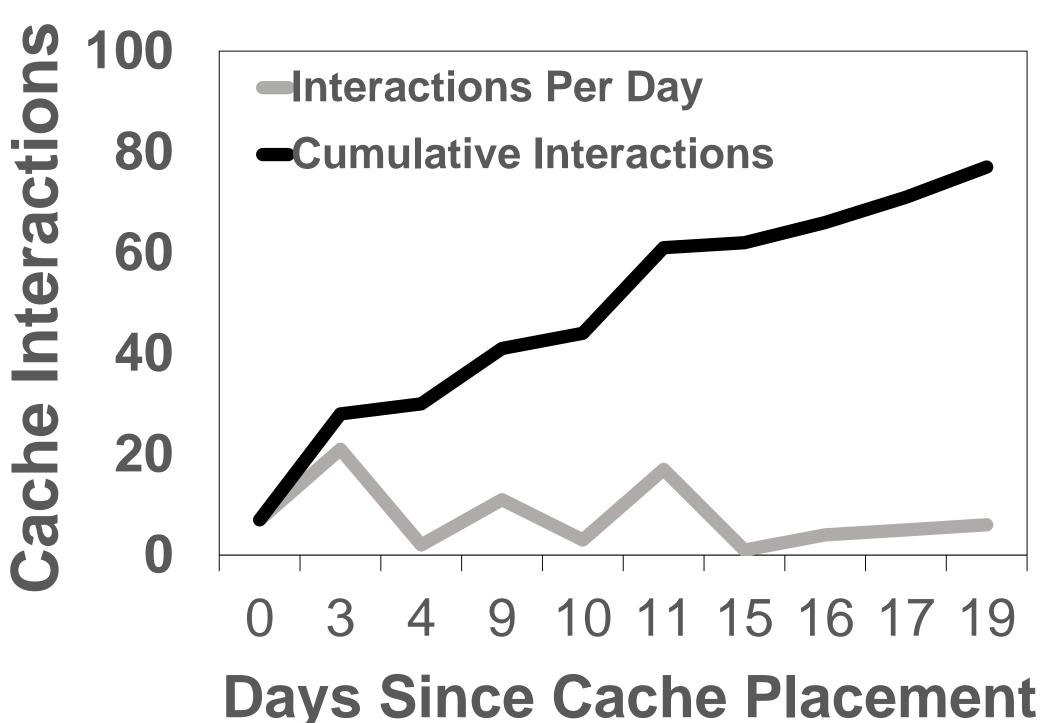
Participants navigate to geocaches through the official Geocaching app, any smartphone mapping app, or using a pre-loaded GPS available at the Seymour Center

At each cache, participants stamp their passport and answer the unique question associated with the cache using information within the container.



A completed passport qualifies participants to return to the Seymour Center and receive a custom-made wooden coin.





77 times.

I learned a lot about larval fish today, including the uses of spines! I wouldn't have guessed they were used for flotation."

Figure 1. Number of interactions

caches have been interacted with

since caches were placed on

April 4, 2018. In total, the five

'This is a great "We hadn't thought about the little series. Very many different ways fish work thoughtfully done to ensure the survival of their and approachable genes until today. Thanks for for all ages." another informative fishy cache!"

