A shortcut key to ID a few of the most common species and genera of Spionidae reported from the OCSD Ocean Monitoring Program (adapted from Lovell & Pasko, 1995)

Non-Polydorid Spionids

Branchiae present; setiger 1 without large neurpodial recurved spine

3 pairs of branchiae, all pinnate; beginning on setiger 1

Greater than 4 or less than 3 pairs of branchiae, beginning on setigers 1 or 2*
Refer to Spionid Key (Lovell & Pasko, 1995)

4 pairs of branchiae, beginning on setiger 1

Branchiae absent; setiger 1 with large neurpodial recurved spine

**Spiophanes spp**
Prostomium without lateral projections
ID with MGS patterns

**Paraprionospio pinnata**
Peristome with wing like extensions nearly surrounding prostomium, laterally

**Prionospio jubata**
1st and 4th branchiae subequal

Dorsal transverse membrane present from setiger 7

**Prionospio dubia**
1st pair of branchiae two to three times longer that 4th

Dorsal transverse membrane absent

**Apoprionospio pygmaea**
Pinnate branchiae with flat, plate like pinnules

*P. lighti* has 6-12 pairs of cirriform branchiae

**Note to users:**
Any specimen which varies from what is exactly described herein should be referred to Lovell & Pasko, 1995

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