



Marine Life Protection Act



Recreational Fishing in the MLPA South Coast Study Region

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- Including others with expertise and knowledge of recreational fishing in the study region



Purpose of Presentation

- Overview of major recreational fisheries in SCSR
- Identification of areas different recreational fishers use
- Factors that affect recreational fishers





Sources of Information

- *California Recreational Fishery Survey (CRFS)*
- *Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)*
- *DFG Lobster Creel Survey (2007-08 season)*
- *CPFV Logbooks*





Modes

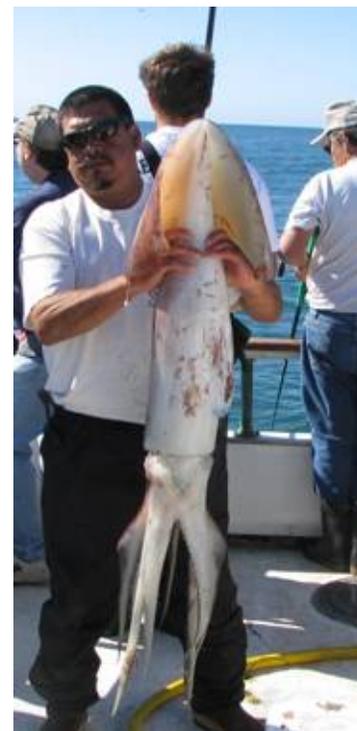
- Vessel-based
 - *Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFV)*
 - *Private and/or rental boats*
 - *Kayaks*
 - *Float tubes/other*
- Angling, scuba, and freediving





Primary Target Species for Vessels

- basses (kelp, barred, spotted)
- Pacific bonito
- Pacific barracuda
- yellowtail
- rockfishes
- California halibut
- California spiny lobster
- white seabass
- Others include: California scorpionfish, California sheephead, ocean whitefish, thresher shark, Humboldt squid





Modes

- Shore-based fishing
 - *Beach and bank* or fishing from *man-made structures*
 - Angling
 - Scuba or freediving
 - Clamming, bait harvesting, hoopnetting





Primary Target Species for Shore Fishing

- Pacific mackerel/bonito
- silversides (AKA smelts)
- surfperches
- croakers
- anchovies
- Pacific sardine
- California halibut
- opaleye
- nearshore sharks & rays





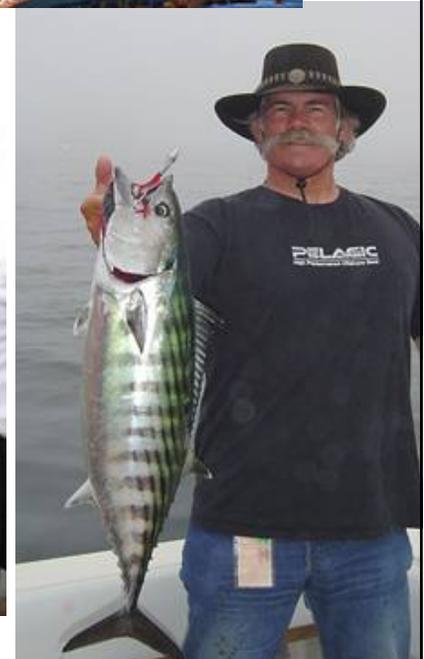
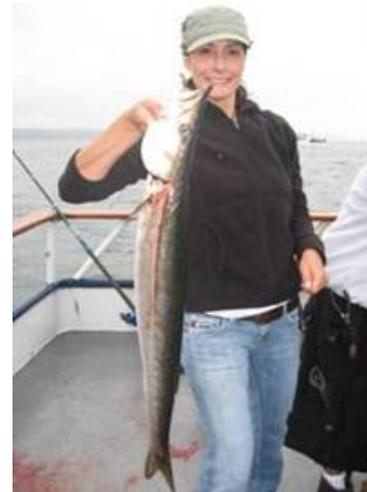
Condensed Target Categories

- *Surface Fishes*
- *Basses*
- *California Halibut*
- *Surfperches*
- *Croakers*
- *White Seabass*
- *Rockfish/Other Reef Fish*
- *California Spiny Lobster*



Surface Fish

- **Mode:** Primarily CPFV private boats, and kayak. Shore for mackerel and bonito
- **Method:** Surface fishing using live bait, jigs, or lures. Also spear.
- **Key Habitats:** variable; include kelp forest, drift kelp, open water
- **Some Key Areas:** numerous and variable; the islands, Point Loma Kelp are examples
- **Species include:** Pacific bonito, Pacific barracuda, Pacific mackerel, and yellowtail





Bass (Kelp, Sand, Spotted)

- **Modes:** CPFV, private and rental skiffs, kayaks, float tubers, some shore
- **Methods:** Live bait (anchovies/sardine), artificial lures, spear
- **Key Habitats:** Kelp beds, sand, natural and man-made structure, bays
- **Some Key Locations:** Catalina Is, San Diego Bay, Huntington Flats





California Halibut

- **Modes:** Private skiffs, kayaks, CPFV's shore angling, float tubers
- **Methods:** drift-fishing, slow trolling, casting, live bait (anchovy/sardine)
- **Key Habitats:** shallow to deep soft bottom, kelp forest, bays and estuarine habitats
- **Some Key Locations:** include Santa Monica Bay, Northern Channel Islands, San Diego Bay





Surfperches

- **Modes:** Primarily shore-based
- **Key Species:** barred, black, rubberlip, walleye, shiner, white, pile perch
- **Methods:** Baits, flies, small lures, some spear
- **Key Habitats:** Sand, man-made structure, rocky shore areas, bays
- **Key Locations:** occur throughout study region





Croakers

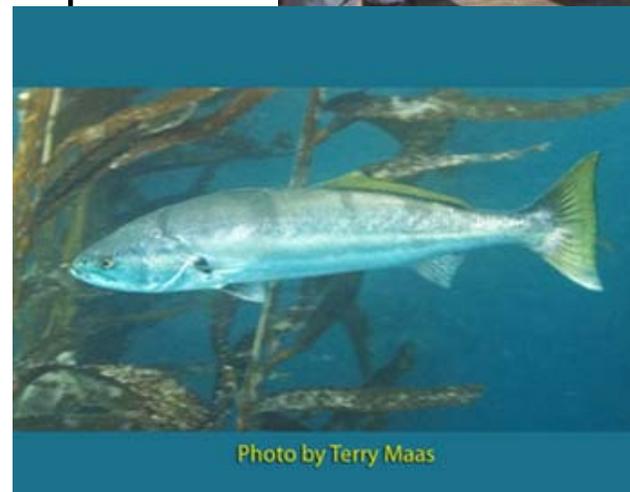
- **Modes:** shore-based; some skiff effort
- **Key Species:** corbina, white croaker, queenfish, spotfin croaker, yellowfin croaker, black croaker, corvina
- **Methods:** Baits (sandcrabs, worms, mussels, and cut fish/squid). Some spear/bow effort for corbina
- **Key Habitats:** Varies by species. Sandy beach and mud bottom, rocky shore, and bays
- **Key Locations:** occur throughout the study region; corvina occur in San Diego Bay





White Seabass

- **Modes:** CPFV's, private boats and kayaks, shore-based free-diving.
- **Methods:** Primarily live bait (especially squid) and spear.
- **Key Habitats:** Kelp forest and rocky reef
- **Some Key Areas:** Catalina Is, Rocky Point, Santa Rosa Is, La Jolla Kelp



Rockfishes and Other Reef Fish

- **Modes:** CPFV, private boats, some kayak and shore effort.
- **Methods:** bottomfishing with live or dead bait, leadheads, swimbaits, and iron/metal jigs, spear.
- **Key habitats:** rocky reefs, including highspots and drop-offs, kelp habitats.
- **Species targeted:** rockfish, also lingcod, ocean whitefish, sheephead, scorpionfish (AKA sculpin), and cabezon





California Spiny Lobster

- **Modes:** Private boats and kayaks, CPFV dive boats, shore-based scuba, free dive, and hoop net.
- **Primary Habitat:** Kelp and rocky reef habitat.
- **Methods:** Primarily taken at night by hand and baited hoop net.
- **Some Key Areas:** Include Channel Islands, Point Loma Kelp, Palos Verdes.





Factors that Affect Recreational Fishing

- Access is key issue for all modes
- **Regulations and fishing closures/seasons**
- Distance from port (or parking)
- Availability of live bait/live bait industry critical to many fisheries
- Environmental/seasonal influences on fish movements and behavior/availability
- Safety and weather
- Economy and cost of fuel





Factors that Affect Recreational Fishing

Rockfish Conservation Areas:

- Large-scale area closures extending length of the U.S. West Coast
- Implemented to allow rebuilding of overfished species of rockfishes
- Regulations/area closures subject to change



Cowcod Conservation Areas:

- Large scale area closures off southern California
- Created to allow cowcod populations to rebuild





Common themes among modes

- Common fishing grounds/habitats fished
- Common access points
- Overlapping fishing methods/modes
- Overlapping target species



<http://www.myfishingreports.net/2008/05/san-clemente-island-islander-mothership.html>



Photo Credits

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