

Outline

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Program Background
- 3) Frequently Asked Questions
- 4) Data Summaries



Introductions

- 1. Name
- 2. Affiliation (e.g. Captain, Deckhand, Volunteer Angler, Science Crew, etc.)
- 3. Where is your favorite place to fish?





California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP)



- Fishery-independent (catch-and-release) study that combines the expertise and ideas of:
 - the fishing community
 - academic scientists
 - resource managers



 Conducts scientifically rigorous data collection and analyses for MPA monitoring and fisheries management

Benefits of Collaboration

- Engage stakeholders in both science and management
- Utilize different areas of expertise to develop protocols and collect data
- Create a shared understanding of resources and facilitate communication





California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP)



California MPAs Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)



passed in 1999



mandated the creation of a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) along the California coast to protect diversity and ecosystem function









Why Monitor MPAs?

- 1. It is a priority adopted by the state of California
- 2. It is required by MLPA
- 3. Critical to seeing the effects of the MPA network in action







Northern California 20 – est. 2012

California MPA Network

North Central California 25 – est. 2010

> Central California 29 – est. 2007

> > Southern California 50 – est. 2012

Marine Protected Area (MPA) vs. Reference Site (REF)



State Marine Reserve (SMR) – fully protected; all commercial and recreational harvest prohibited



State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) – limited recreational and/or commercial extraction permitted



State Marine Park (SMP) – recreational harvest permitted



Fished Areas – areas open to both recreational and commercial fishing; subject to California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) rules and regulations (e.g., minimum/maximum sizes, seasonal closures, daily bag limits)







Statewide Monitoring Network







Channel Islands MPAs



CCFRP Sampling Design



Why Can't We Fish Wherever We Want?

 Returning to the same cells each year allows us to compare data and monitor change over time



- Utilize seafloor maps to determine available reef habitat
- Overlay isobaths of targeted depth (10-50 meters)
- Designate 500 x 500 m cells over rocky habitat in our depth zone

UCSB Study Sites







UCSB Study Sites



UCSB Study Sites



10 and 50 m contour

Why Can't I Fish My Own Tackle?

- Standardization, reproducibility, and historical precedent
- Allows us to compare data on a state and regional scale



















Why Doesn't Chris Handle any Fish?

- Data is important!
- The data recorder is responsible for:
 - Tracking angler on/off time
 - Ensuring drift is within cell coordinates
 - Keeping an eye out for incorrect tackle types, uncrimped hooks, etc.











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Here Comes the Data!



Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)

- One of the best ways to assess a fishery is to look at relative fish abundance
- How we measure it:



CPUE =









Total CPUE by Site



Units and scaling may change from plot to plot!





CA Sheephead CPUE



- We can also look at CPUE for individual species
- Strong differences in MPA and REF CPUE may signal an MPA effect





• Some species prefer certain oceanographic conditions



Kelp Bass CPUE



• Targeted species may show a strong response to protection





Other targeted species may not show a response at all





Differences in CPUE between islands may reflect differences in fishing pressure

Fish Length

- Size is often one of the first metrics to respond to protection
- We measure fish by their Total Length (TL) to the nearest centimeter

TL (cm) = Tip of the snout to the end of the caudal fin







• Differences in mean length between MPA and Reference sites may indicate a potential MPA effect





 Like with CPUE, some species may respond strongly to protection at certain sites



Copper Rockfish Length



The more individuals we catch, the cleaner the distribution becomes

Lingcod Length



 Large individuals outside of the MPA may indicate a possible spillover effect of certain targeted species



Blue Rockfish Length



• Other species may not show a response to protection at all

Going Forward

 CCFRP is designed as a long term monitoring project

- MLML and Cal Poly have been monitoring MPAs on the central coast since 2007
- Let's look at some of their data



Blue Rockfish Mean CPUE

- These time series plots allow us to track change over time
- Once again we can see if MPAs appear to be affecting CPUE



Blue Rockfish Mean CPUE

 These plots track responses to large scale events and environmental disasters such as climate change and oil spills



Black Rockfish Size Structure

 We can also gather interesting information on the life history of different species

 This can in turn be used to inform policy and regulation





But one metric is clearly the most important.....



Who Caught the Most Fish?

Angler	Number of Fish Caught in 2018
John H.	191
John S.	188
Wayne K.	177
Bill P.	148
Gavin C.	141
Russel P.	137
Whitney U.	129
Jim S.	119
April B.	111
Rudy T.	102
Hannah K.	101

Who Caught the **Biggest** Fish?

Angler	Winning Catch by Species
John T.	Thresher Shark (210 cm/83 in)
Butch B.	Soupfin Shark (160 cm/63 in)
Russel P.	Lingcod (92 cm/36 in)
Zack E.	Halibut (86 cm/34 in)
Whitney U.	Lingcod (77 cm/30 in)
Jim S.	California Sheephead (75 cm/30 in)







Who Caught the smallest Fish?

Angler	Trophy Catch by Species
Rudy T.	Pacific Sanddab (10 cm)
Wayne K.	Blue Rockfish (10 cm)
John S.	Vermillion Rockfish (10 cm)
Jim S. Sr	Pacific Sanddab (11 cm)
Andy M.	Blue Rockfish (15 cm)



Follow Us! @Casellelab and @CCFRP

Thanks for joining us!







Why Don't We Tag All the Fish?

- Maximize survivorship and minimize stress
- Not tagged if:
 - Less than 25 cm
 - Experiencing injury or barotrauma
 - Species not of interest (i.e. Mackerel, Sanddabs, etc.)



Tag Returns Highlights From 2017!



Amazing recapture from Bodega Bay! They recaptured a Copper Rockfish at Stewart's Point that was originally tagged by Cal Poly in the Piedras Blancas MPA on 8/20/13! In its 1,500 days (4+ years) at liberty, it swam ~220 miles and grew 13 cm!