



# California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program

## MLML Volunteer Newsletter A Summary of the 2019 Sampling Season

Greetings MLML CCFRP Volunteers,

With your help, MLML has successfully completed **13** years of data collections inside and outside MPAs along the central California coast! In this time, we've conducted a total of **218** hook-and-line surveys in an effort to gather information regarding species compositions, lengths, and catch rates of rockfishes and other species commonly found in the nearshore environment. From these surveys, **835** volunteer anglers have spent over **7,000** hours catching and releasing **73,439** fishes (and tagging over **22,000** fishes) from a total of **51** different species! In 2019 alone, we caught and released **6,632** fishes (tagging **497** of those prior to release) and welcomed **35** new volunteers to the program. Our statewide effort remains strong and all partner institutions were able to get out for another successful field season. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) continues to use the information we collect to improve stock assessments of nearshore fishes and we are excited to say that both CDFW and OPC are using the information we've collected over the years to understand the effects of MPAs on the nearshore ecosystem. We can't thank everyone enough for their dedication and support! We're already looking forward to the 2020 season!



At this time, we would like to invite you to our annual volunteer angler appreciation event and data workshop. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about the data we have collected over the past thirteen seasons and allows us to thank you for your dedication to the program. We welcome your attendance and involvement! The event will be help on:

**Saturday, March 14th, 2020 from 12-3PM @ Moss Landing Marine Labs**

If you are able to attend, feel free to bring others who might be interested, and please RSVP through email ([CCFRP@mlml.calstate.edu](mailto:CCFRP@mlml.calstate.edu)) so we can plan accordingly. Lunch and raffle prizes will be provided at the meeting. An additional message will be sent out soon with more workshop details. Please stay tuned for updates through email, our website, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



A big thanks to our program partners and research affiliates this season: The Ocean Protection Council, NOAA, FishWise, Santa Monica Seafood, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, F/V Huli Cat, F/V Kahuna, F/V Sur Randy, F/V Tigerfish, Humboldt State University, Bodega Marine Laboratories, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Barbara, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography

# Updates from the MLML CCFRP Science Crew

## Welcome Jake and Kinsey!



We're all working hard behind the scenes preparing for another successful and fun field season! Rachel will be the new acting statewide coordinator for the program and will return as lead field scientist for MLML. Jackie will be coordinating the volunteers and Katie, Kinsey, and Jake will be returning as science crew. A big thank you to CDFW MPA team for their hard work this season! Be on the lookout for emails in the early summer with details for our upcoming 2020 sampling schedule.

Please take a minute to like [CCFRP](#) on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and YouTube (@CCFRP)



MLML's fearless leaders, **Dr. Rick Starr & Scott Hamilton**, continue to seek out funding, find innovative applications for our data, and offer useful advice to our team. Both have a very busy schedule that prevent them from getting out on the water as often as they would like, but we were excited to have Rick on a few trips this season!

We all thoroughly enjoyed working with you and can't wait for the 2020 season!





## Biggest Fishes Caught with MLML (2007 to 2019)

Below are some of Moss Landing Marine Labs' largest fishes ever caught, by species.

Total lengths are listed along with angler, area, site (MPA / REF), and year.

**Black & Yellow Rockfish** 33 cm (13 in)

Matthew C. Nuevo REF '12

Judy W., Año Nuevo REF '14

Dan S., Año Nuevo REF '17

**Black Rockfish** 50 cm (20 in)

Mike E., Año Nuevo MPA '19

**Blue Rockfish** 45 cm (18 in)

Ray Y., Año Nuevo MPA '08

Mike I., Point Lobos REF '15

**Bocaccio** 64 cm (25 in)

Jonathan P., SE Farallon Islands MPA '18

**Brown Rockfish** 48 cm (19 in)

Ben S., Año Nuevo MPA '16

Scott Y., Año Nuevo MPA '17

**California Halibut** 89 cm (35 in)

Ken Y., Año Nuevo MPA '15

Ken Y., Año Nuevo REF '17

**Cabezon** 64 cm (25 in)

EC O., Año Nuevo REF '16 (x2)

**Canary Rockfish** 56 cm (22 in)

Amy M., Año Nuevo REF '11

**China Rockfish** 39 cm (15 in)

Kevin M., Año Nuevo REF '10

**Copper Rockfish** 52 cm (20 in)

Darrell B., Point Lobos MPA '17

**Deacon Rockfish** 33cm (12 in)

Jonathan M., Point Lobos REF '19

**Gopher Rockfish** 41 cm (16 in)

Darrell B., Point Lobos REF '15

**Grass Rockfish** 45 cm (18 in)

Ken Y., Año Nuevo MPA '09

**Kelp Greenling** 41 cm (16 in)

Manny L., Año Nuevo REF '17



# Biggest Fishes Caught with MLML (2007 to 2019)

Come fish with us again and defend your record! Or make a new one!



**Kelp Rockfish** 39 cm (15 in)  
Lester Y., Point Lobos MPA '14



**Lingcod** 102 cm (40 in)  
Ed M., Año Nuevo MPA '14



**Olive Rockfish** 50 cm (20 in)  
David R., Point Lobos MPA '07  
Alan B., Point Lobos MPA '08  
Nick I., SE Farallon Islands REF '18



**Ocean Whitefish** 60 cm (24 in)  
Frank P., Point Lobos MPA '09



**Pacific Mackerel** 34 cm (13 in)  
Matt M., Point Lobos MPA '19  
Paul D., Point Lobos MPA '19

**Quillback Rockfish** 42 cm (17 in)  
Willie T., SE Farallon Islands MPA '17

**Rock Sole** 31 cm (12 in)  
Eddie G., Point Lobos MPA '19

**Rosy Rockfish** 31 cm (12 in)  
Jonathan P., SE Farallon Islands MPA '18

**Starry Rockfish** 38 cm (15 in)  
Randy Y., SE Farallon Islands MPA '17

**Treefish** 35 cm (14 in)  
Ben R., Point Lobos REF '15  
Eddie G., Point Lobos MPA '17

**Vermilion Rockfish** 56 cm (22 in)  
Daniel S., Point Lobos MPA '11  
Ben S., Año Nuevo REF '12

**White Croaker** 32 cm (13 in)  
Bill D., Año Nuevo MPA '11




**Wolf Eel** 135 cm (53 in)  
Ken Y., Se Farallon Islands MPA '18

**Yellowtail Rockfish** 44 cm (17 in)  
Ken Y., Año Nuevo MPA '15  
Matt M., Point Lobos MPA '18



## 2019 Tag Recaptures for MLML

Tag returns are an exciting part of our program and one way that we can learn about the movements and growth rates of the fishes we catch and release on our sampling trips.

-  In 2019, we had **9** recaptured fishes: **1 Black Rockfish**, **1 Yellowtail Rockfish**, **2 Copper Rockfish**, and **5 Lingcod**!
-  **4** of the recaptures were caught from CCFRP trips, **3** were recaptured by recreational anglers on party boats, and **2** were recaptured on privately owned fishing boats.
-  **8** of the **9** recaptured fishes were originally tagged on CCFRP trips. The Yellowtail Rockfish was tagged way back in 2013 during our Rockfish Conservation Area project!

### Lingcod Recaptures!

- **Gary K. recaptured** a **Lingcod** on the first day of the 2019 fishing season at the **Año Nuevo MPA** that was originally tagged in 2018 with a growth of 2 cm after just 356 days at liberty.
- **Victor A. recaptured** a **Lingcod** that was at liberty for 391 days and grew 3 cm since it was first captured in 2018.



A **Copper Rockfish** recaptured by **Ross B. W.** at our **Point Lobos** site was first caught and **tagged** by **Benny R.** almost exactly 2 years prior (shy by 1 day) in 2017 in the same location!



### RCA Tag Recapture 6 Years Later!

Back in 2013, the Fisheries and Conservation Biology lab conducted a Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) project to assess areas with habitat used by rockfish species, many of which were considered threatened by overfishing. One of the Yellowtail Rockfish recaptured by a recreational angler in Half Moon Bay this past year, was previously tagged during this project over 6 years ago!



**Please check for tags next time you are out fishing!**

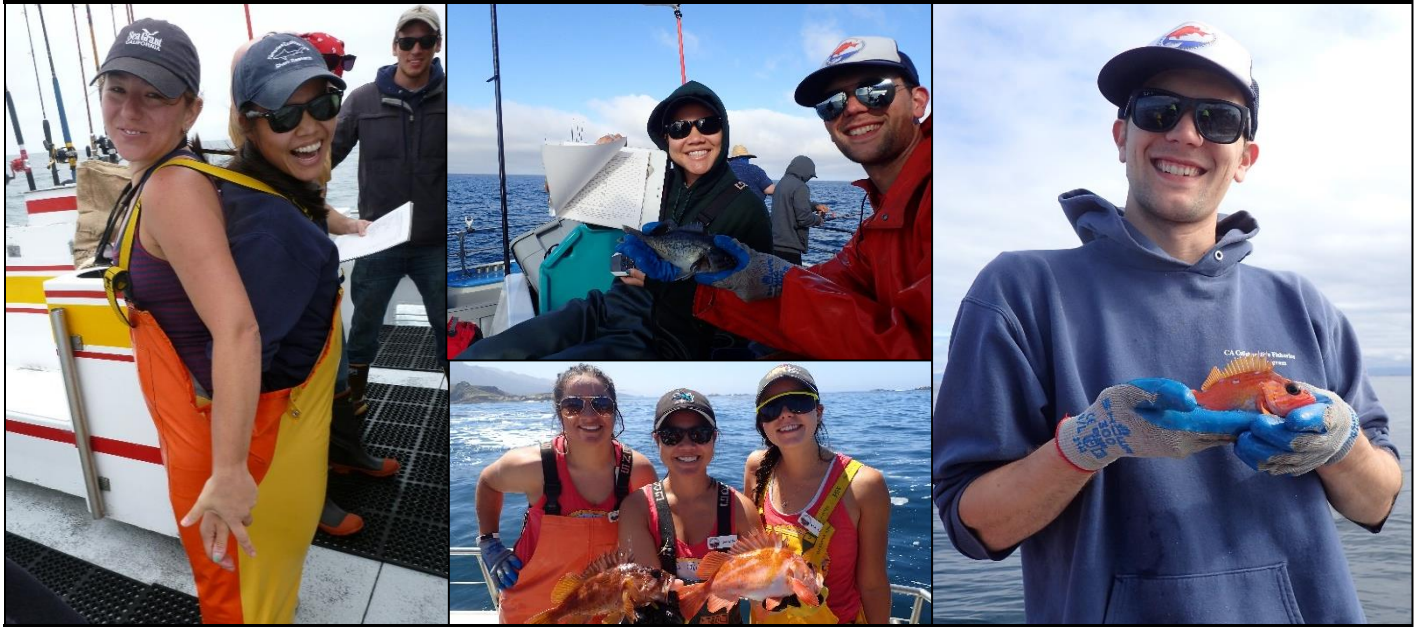
We don't get to fish as much as our volunteers (or as much as we'd like to), so we have to rely on the help of the fishing community to gather this important information.

Remember that information from a tagged fish is worth \$20! If you happen to catch a tagged fish, please record the species, length, depth, and location, and contact:

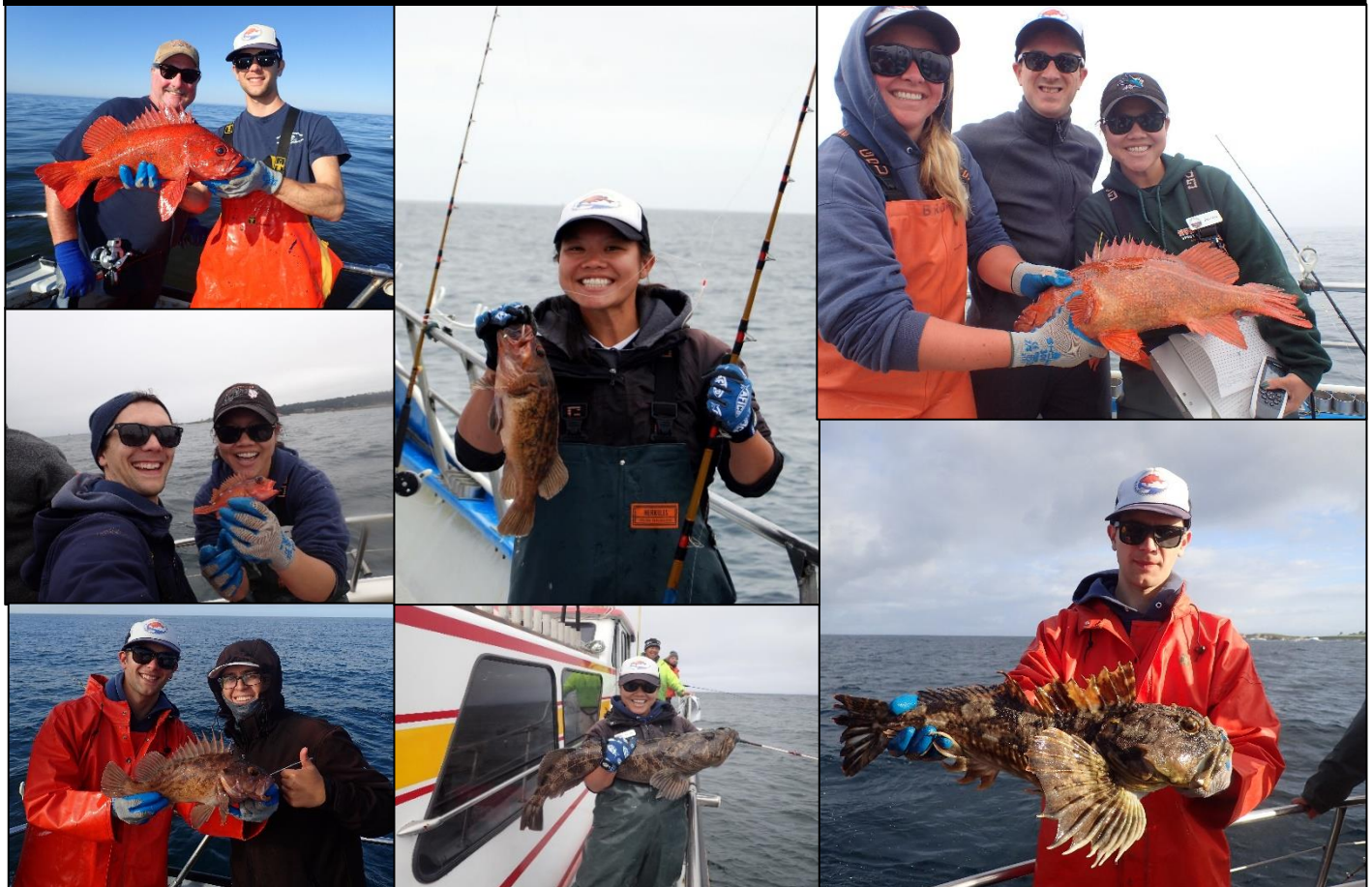
**[CCFRP@mlml.calstate.edu](mailto:CCFRP@mlml.calstate.edu) or (831) 771-4479**



# Thank you Jen & Ryan for your dedication to CCFRP!



We would like to give a huge shout-out to Jen Chiu & Ryan Fields who have played a critical role in guiding the statewide expansion and leading the MLML crew throughout the past few years. Their positive attitude and contagious smiles will be missed by all. We are truly grateful for their guidance and leadership and we wish them the best of luck on their next endeavor! Ryan is moving to Oregon to work as a Research Technician with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Reserves Team. Jen has accepted a new position as the program director of an education non-profit in the Bay Area where she is helping to pioneer a novel early reading intervention program to assist students with dyslexia.







We appreciate your hard work, support and enthusiasm for our program! We could not do it without you!







We look forward to our 14<sup>th</sup> sampling season and can't wait to see you out on the water!

