



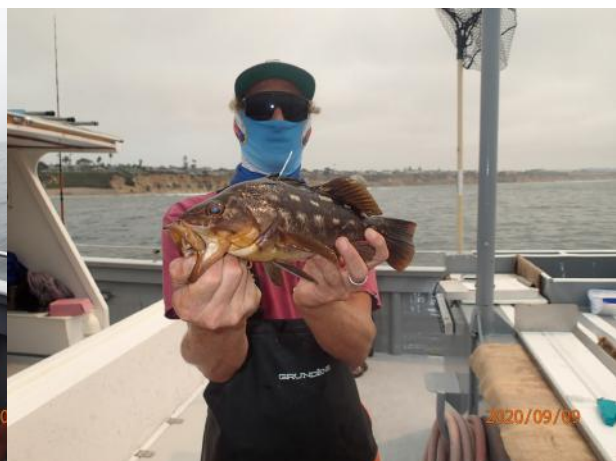
California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program

Scripps Institution of Oceanography Volunteer Newsletter

A Summary of the 2020 Sampling Season

Welcome CCFRP Volunteers,

We greatly appreciate your continued support and enthusiasm for this program. We are very grateful to have a dedicated group of anglers willing to volunteer their time to help ensure the sustainability of our precious resources so that we can continue fishing long into the future. As many of you know, we made some temporary protocol changes to follow COVID safety precautions and continue our research in the 2020 season. Instead of our usual volunteer anglers from the local fishing community, we resulted to using UCSD students and downsized the number of anglers on each survey from 15 to 6. For our upcoming 2021 season we must again rely upon our university affiliated volunteers. Next year, we hope to have YOU join us back out on the water because as we all know, citizen science is a pillar of CCFRP! Last year was our fourth sampling season to gather important information on species composition, lengths, and catch rates! In 2020, we had 13 volunteer student anglers (11 new) join us on 12 hook-and-line surveys conducted inside MPAs and nearby reference areas off San Diego County. Volunteers spent 208 angler hours catching and releasing 736 fish (541 of these were tagged) representing 29 different species. Take a look inside for some of the awesome highlights from the past sampling season!!



Know someone interested in fishing with us in 2022?

Contact us at catchreporter@gmail.com for more information and to volunteer.



SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF
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UC San Diego



Meet Our Science Crew!



Erica Jarvis Mason

Erica is a PhD student in the Marine Biology program at SIO. After four years of leading SIO's CCFRP efforts, Erica is passing the torch to incoming PhD student, Jack Elstner, so that she can focus on completing her dissertation. For her PhD, Erica is studying the population dynamics of the iconic saltwater bass fishery in southern California.



Richie Cravey

Richie is a Master's student in the Marine Biology Program at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In 2018, he began working as a tech to conduct the CCFRP surveys. Richie is also currently working with The Nature Conservancy to develop and validate methods of producing length-frequency data of commercially and recreationally important fisheries species from images as a novel way to evaluate fish stocks.



Connor Coscino

In the Spring of 2021, Connor graduated from UCSD with a BS in Marine Biology. This fall, he will begin working towards his Master's degree on a project evaluating the existing size limits of the most popular recreational and commercial fishes along the California coast. Connor has worked as a lab technician on CCFRP since 2019.



Jack Elstner

Jack graduated from Cornell University in the Spring of 2021 with a BS in Earth and Atmospheric Science. At Scripps, he will be pursuing his PhD in Biological Oceanography and is particularly interested in climate impacts on west coast fisheries and climate-informed ocean management. Jack will be transitioning into SIO's CCFRP lead scientist as Erica shifts her focus towards her dissertation.



Biggest Fishes Caught in 2020

Below are the top 9 largest species caught last season.

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

California Sheephead 69 cm (27.2 in)

Brian Chang, South La Jolla REF

Swimbait

62 cm (24.4 in)

James Charvat, Swami's MPA

Baited Shrimp Fly

Lingcod 52 cm (20.5 in)

Ben Armstrong, South La Jolla MPA

Swimbait

Kelp Bass 50 cm (19.7 in)

Jonathan Kim, South La Jolla MPA

Baited Shrimp Fly

49 cm (19.3 in)

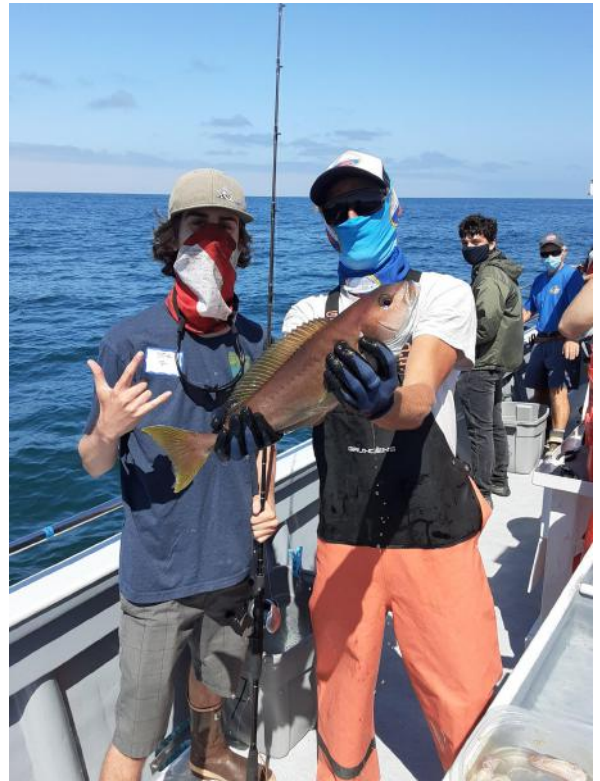
Kamran Walsh, Swami's MPA

Swimbait

Ocean Whitefish 49 cm (19.3 in)

Joseph Vechinski, Swami's MPA

Baited Shrimp Fly



Barred Sand Bass 47 cm (18.5 in)

Federico Gomez-Mendoza, Swami's MPA

Baited Shrimp Fly

Vermillion Rockfish 44 cm (17.3 in)

Charles Hendrickson, South La Jolla MPA

Swimbait

White Seabass 42 cm (16.5 in)

Yang Yang Zhang, Swami's REF

Swimbait

Pacific Bonito 40 cm (15.7 in)

Brian Chang, Swami's REF

Swimbait

Copper Rockfish 37 cm (14.6 in)

Kamran Walsh, South La Jolla MPA

Swimbait



2020 Data Summary

(Revised April 21, 2021)

Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (Fish/Angler Hour)

Area	2019 CPUE	2020 CPUE	Most Frequently Caught Species
South La Jolla MPA	3.95	5.00	Ocean Whitefish, Honeycomb Rockfish, Gopher Rockfish, Kelp Rockfish
South La Jolla REF	3.26	3.23	
Swami's MPA	3.74	4.25	Kelp Bass, Pacific Mackerel, Ocean Whitefish, Barred Sand Bass
Swami's REF	1.10	1.64	

Species Spotlight: Ocean Whitefish (*Caulolatilus princeps*)



Etymology and Colloquial Names: *Caulolatilus* meaning “wide stem” in Greek, and *princeps* meaning “first” or “leader.”

Geographic Range: From British Columbia to Peru, but most commonly caught along the offshore islands of the California coast from Point Conception to Baja California.

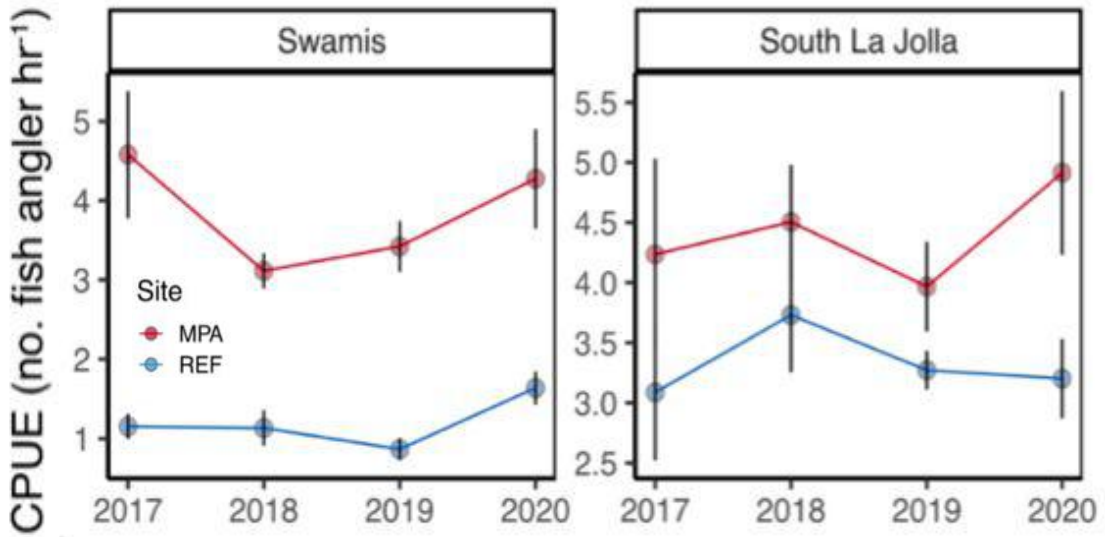
Maximum size: 40 inches total length.

Ocean Whitefish are a popular sport-caught fish in southern California. They are most commonly found over a rocky bottom at a depth between 10 and 500 feet. Spawning generally occurs in the warmer water along Baja California from late Fall to early Spring. Catch numbers have been known to peak following El Niño events, potentially due to increased reproductive success brought on by the warmer El Niño waters.

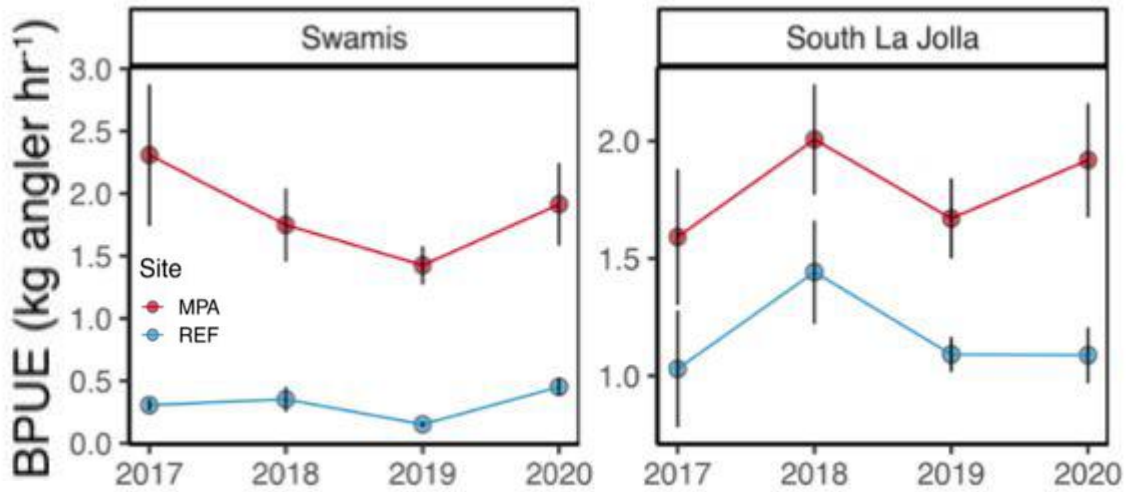
CCFRP Stats:	2017	2018	2019	2020
Caught and released	100	158	374	140
Tagged	88	132	309	132
Recaptured	1	4	6	2
Max length (inches)	18.5	17.3	19.3	19.3

Temporal Trends

Catch-Per-Unit-Effort



Biomass-Per-Unit-Effort



2020 Tag Returns

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

Anglers reported catching **17** of our tagged fish last year! One interesting find was a Vermilion Rockfish originally tagged and released in 2017, and recaptured again 1118 days later only ½ a mile away from the original release location. It was originally recorded at 33cm (13 in.) and had grown to 40.6 cm (16 in.) when it was recaptured again over 3 years later.

Species	Total	Max Days at Liberty	Max Distance (mi)
Kelp Bass	10	739	.11
Ocean Whitefish	2	66	0
Brown Rockfish	1	20	0
Kelp Rockfish	1	598	.57
Vermilion Rockfish	1	1118	.50
Honeycomb	1	254	8.72
California Scorpionfish	1	153	0



On your next fishing outing, be on the lookout for our tags -- they are white and about 2 inches long, typically inserted on the left side of the fish. One side of the tag has our phone number, the other has the Tag ID number. If tags have been out for quite some time they may be fouled with algae and not as noticeable.



What to do if you catch a tagged fish:

- Record the **Tag ID number** and **location** (length, depth if possible)
- Call 858-534-2156 and leave us a detailed message
- Let us know if you kept or released the fish (with or without tag)
- We now have CCFRP hats as a **reward** for tag return data!!

Surveys in 2022

Stay on the lookout for emails next spring from catchreporter@gmail.com with details on our schedule for the 2022 field season. Be sure to respond quickly to ensure you don't miss out on joining us for another exciting year of surveys!

If you are a member of a fishing club that is interested in participating, please let us know! We can always use more volunteers on our science team. Science team members help with rigging gear, shuttling fish, descending bloated rockfish, collecting data, and assisting anglers with their gear.



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at catchreporter@gmail.com. Volunteers must be 18 years or older.



Please take a moment to follow "Coastal Angler Tagging Cooperative" on Facebook, as well as "CCFRP" on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Youtube!





**Thank you for your
support of CCFRP!**





Looking forward to another great season!

