



California Department of Fish and Game
 20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100
 Monterey, CA 93940

January 2010
 Volume 10 No. 1



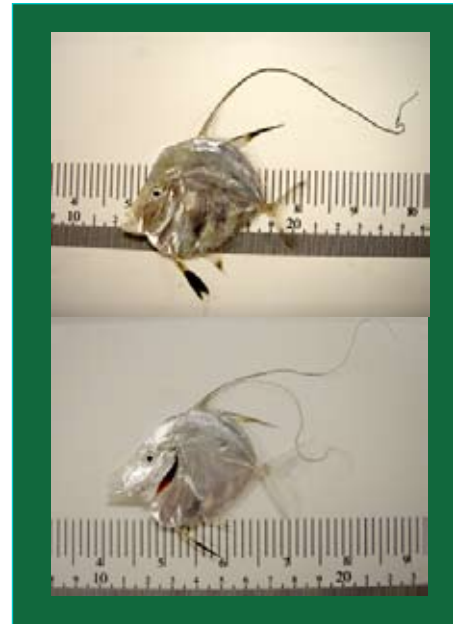
Rare Visitors from the South

DFG researchers document unusual find

by Heather Gliniak, Marine Biologist

“Oh, wow! What is this?” exclaimed Erica Jarvis, a Department of Fish and Game (DFG) marine biologist, while extracting a small fish out of a beach seine (net). The silver-colored fish was about 3 in. long and the body was laterally compressed with iridescent blue highlights. The pelvic fins were relatively large with black tips. The most discerning feature was the first dorsal fin, which had two long, filamentous spines. The other biologists gathered around to inspect the unusual specimen; it looked like something they recognized but had never seen locally. By the end of the sampling day, another smaller specimen had been captured and the biologists brought the two fish back to the Los Alamitos field office to be identified and preserved.

The two fish captured by seine at Seal Beach, California in Nov. 2008 were identified as juvenile Mexican lookdown, *Selene brevoortii*. With the capture of these juvenile fish, the Mexican lookdown’s northernmost range boundary has been extended by approximately 100 km.



Two juvenile Mexican lookdown caught at Seal Beach on November 18, 2008. Juveniles of this species had not previously been documented in California, and the species had never been observed so far north of their known range. DFG photos by E. Jarvis

The typical range for Mexican lookdown is from the southern tip of Baja California, Mexico to Panama, although adult specimens have been documented in

“Lookdown” continued on page 5

Commercial Pacific Herring Fishery Closed

by Ryan Bartling, Marine Biologist

At the September 2009 Fish and Game Commission meeting, the Commission approved regulatory action to close commercial Pacific herring fisheries in San Francisco Bay and ocean waters. The closures were made following recommendations by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Aquaculture and Bay Management Project (ABMP) staff.

“This closure was requested by the DFG following three consecutive years of near record low herring

biomass estimates for San Francisco Bay,” said John Mello, supervising biologist for the ABMP. Mello noted that “the spawning biomass estimate for San Francisco Bay during the 2008-2009 season was 4,844 tons, well below the historical average of 49,428 tons.”

Due to this historic decline and concerns over age-class structure (fewer older fish), DFG recommended a zero quota for commercial harvest in San Francisco Bay for the 2009-2010 season. The proposal also recommended that no permits be issued for the ocean waters fishery 2010 season. The DFG believes this regulatory action will help protect the San Francisco Bay Pacific herring stock while it rebuilds.

Previously, the Commission took emergency regulatory action to close the ocean waters fishery beginning in July 2009. This fishery occurs during the non-spawning season primarily in the waters of Monterey Bay, and is the only herring fishery with no quota.

“Herring” continued on page 6

Inside This Issue

- Rare Fish.....1
- Herring Fishery.....1
- CRFS Tales II.....2
- Jan. Fish ID Quiz.....3
- Oct. Quiz Answer.....3
- CA Halibut Fishery.....4
- 2010 Regulations.....6
- Marine Web Site.....7
- Support Our Wardens.....7
- Creature Feature.....8
- MLPA Web Site.....9
- Mgmt. Meetings.....9

Tales from the Front Lines of California's Fisheries

Central California and Channel Islands CRFS Fishery Technicians relate their on-the-job experiences

by Mary Patyten, Research Writer

Fishery technicians for the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) spend a great deal of time in places where anglers gather: piers, docks, jetties, boats, launch ramps, and beaches. They interview fishermen, measuring and weighing their fish, and answer questions regarding fishing regulations, all to keep tabs on the status and health of nearshore fish populations. Inevitably, they are witness to not only a long parade of fish and fishermen but also some interesting situations, as recounted here in Part II of this two-part fishing tale...

Fish aren't the only things CRFS fishery technicians see on the ends of fishermen's lines. One August weekend, fishery technician Diana El-Hinn reported the following while working at Stearns Wharf in Santa Barbara: "Three women came up to me, distressed about a seabird that had become wrapped in fishing line and couldn't fly. This gull had stolen a fish that had been caught and somehow managed to entangle itself in the line.

"When the gull wrapped itself in the fishing line, it fell into the water and took the fishing pole with it! The poor bird was struggling to stay afloat, so I called the Harbor Patrol and they rescued the bird. As a bonus, the angler got his pole back and everyone lived happily ever after." Quite the fairy tale ending for both the fisherman and the gull!

The following Sunday, El-Hinn was sampling fishermen's catches at a Santa Barbara dock when the Harbor Patrol arrived. "They appeared to be anxiously waiting for someone. Then a fire truck showed up. Soon another Harbor Patrol boat arrived, towing a third boat to the dock. Then two more fire trucks pulled up, and the Harbor Patrol stopped all boat traffic at the ramp.

"I found out later in the day that the boat owner had pumped 24 gallons of gas into his fishing pole holder instead of his fuel tank. The gas dumped out right on top of his batteries and engine. The Harbor Patrol found out about the spill when they were doing random slip checks." Mopping up after mistaking your fishing pole holder for the fuel tank outlet was not such a fairy tale ending for this angler...

Any fisherman will tell you that the good days usually make up for the bad, and Greg Huggins, a fishery technician who works on Monterey Bay, saw both one Labor Day weekend. "This weekend was a doozy in Santa Cruz with a solid rockfish bite," said Huggins. "There was a good assortment of species and limits. I weighed in several 30+

lb halibut and a good number of smaller ones. Anglers that made the trip to Franklin Point were all rewarded with very nice sized lingcod limits; however, albacore anglers were all virtually skunked. This made them understandably irritable after a long, unfruitful day."

In the Channel Islands off Santa Barbara, fishermen were also having a good time with halibut. Fishery technician Erika Hersh noted that "People were bringing in halibut throughout August. Most of the halibut were too heavy for my 25-lb scale." Fish too large for your scale... that's a problem any fisherman would like to have!

Observing fishing trends, boom-and-bust cycles of ocean abundance, and shifts in recreational catches is great training for a career as a DFG biologist. Then-CRFS fishery technician Kai Lampson marveled over the abundant catch he witnessed in 2006 during one sampling trip: "I personally had never seen halibut catches of this magnitude.

Many of the fish were quite large. I weighed two fish over 40 lb apiece, and observed a commercial rod-and-reel fish that weighed over 52 lb. The bulk of the halibut catches were made at Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands, where the halibut were feeding on squid that were spawning there."

Fishery technicians see it all: good, bad and indifferent fishing, spawning squid, encounters with exotic species – even fairy tale endings. "I took this job because I love fish, plain and simple," asserts Kirk Lombard, a fishery technician working out of San Francisco. "But what keeps me going are the stories, the interactions and the remarkable characters I meet in the world of piers and docks and jetties." 🐟

Methods for avoiding angler-sea bird interactions may be found in *California's Seabirds: Give Them a Break, Not a Line* by seabird biologist Nora Rojek, available online at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/seabirds.asp



For more information about the CRFS program, visit the DFG Web page at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/crfs.asp.

Marine Management News Fish Identification Quiz!

by Mary Patyten, Research Writer



Welcome to the Marine Management News Fish Identification Quiz for January 2010! Here's your chance to show off your fish identification knowledge and win an official Department of Fish and Game (DFG) fish tagging cap (left). To qualify, simply send the correct answer via e-mail to AskMarine@dfg.ca.gov before February 28, 2010 identifying:

- The species of the fish pictured below (scientific name and an accepted common name)
- The current daily bag limit, as given in the 2009-2010 recreational fishing regulations for California!

Be sure to type "January 2010 MMN Fish Quiz" as the "Subject" of your e-mail. The winner will be selected during a random drawing from all correct answers received by February 28, 2010.

This fish hatches from an egg about the size of a BB pellet along with hundreds of its siblings after an incubation period of around two weeks. Females may spawn several times from October through April every year, using long, sticky filaments to attach large egg masses to eelgrass and shallow-water algae. Once hatched, the young swim near the surface in harbors, along sandy beaches, and in the kelp canopy, often mixing with young topsmelt.

The range of this species stretches from Santa Maria Bay, Baja California, to Yaquina, Oregon. Off California, they are found in bays and inshore waters throughout the year. They often form large, dense schools in water less than 100 ft deep, and are most common in 5- to 50-ft depths.

This fish may attain a maximum length of 22 in., with 17-in. fish commonly taken. It grows relatively fast, reaching maturity at two to three years when about 8 in. long. One 16-in. male was aged to 11 years, the oldest fish ever aged for this species.

This fish is targeted by commercial and recreational fisheries for human consumption and for bait. Historically, commercial fishermen have used a variety of nets and setlines to catch this fish. Commercial landing totals have varied sharply, driven by demand: in 1945, more than two million pounds were taken, while in 1999 only

2,530 pounds were taken. Principal commercial fishing areas include bays and harbors such as San Pedro, Monterey, San Francisco, Tomales, and Humboldt.

This species is taken frequently by recreational anglers fishing in the surf and from piers and skiffs. It was the fourth most commonly occurring fish in the California recreational catch during 2007 according to California Recreational Fisheries Survey data. Bright red artificial flies or small hooks baited with shrimp or squid are effective terminal tackle for this species. Larger fish are quite game, and will take a small spinner or lure cast out and retrieved with a series of quick jerks.

Currently, this species' population status is not known. Because this fish occurs in inshore waters, however, it runs the risk of being affected by pollutants and loss of habitat through development.

If you think you know this species of fish, enter the prize drawing by sending an e-mail to the DFG at AskMarine@dfg.ca.gov with the correct scientific and a common name, and the current daily bag limit. Again, be sure to type "January 2010 MMN Fish Quiz" in the "Subject" portion of your e-mail. Answers to the quiz and the winner's name will be published in the next issue of *Marine Management News*. 🐟



October 2009 "Mystery" Fish: Finescale Triggerfish



Jonathan Medrano and his finescale triggerfish

Congratulations go out to Mike Peterson of Burlingame, California for correctly identifying last issue's mystery fish as a finescale triggerfish, *Balistes polylepsis*. The daily bag limit for finescale triggerfish is 10 fish, within the general bag limit of 20 fish total (Section 27.60(a)). This bag limit is applicable to all species of fish and shellfish for which take is allowed, but no other bag limit is specified.

Mike is a lifelong San Francisco Bay Area resident who works in the biotech industry. He is a scuba diver and occasional fisherman and hunter who says that the "primary appeal of my outdoor pastimes is learning and enjoyment of the natural history of the life and land." Congratulations Mike!



Fishing the Bay for California Halibut

by Adrienne Vincent, Marine Biologist

San Francisco Bay hosts a modern, industrialized, international port complex serving more than seven million people in the Bay Area. It is also part of the largest and most dynamic estuary in the state, and supports many ecological communities and native species.

In some years the bay is also a focus of sport and commercial fisheries for California halibut, which the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) monitors through the State Finfish Management Project.

California halibut are one of the largest resident predatory fish species found in San Francisco Bay, with a maximum recorded length of five feet in California waters. They are visual predators that feed on small bait fishes. Many California halibut use protected bays and estuaries such as San Francisco Bay for foraging, spawning, and as a nursery.

California Halibut Quick Facts and Fishing Tips:

- Minimum legal size: 22 in. total length
- Bag and possession limit: 3 fish north of Pt. Sur, 5 fish south of Pt. Sur (Monterey County)
- If a sub-legal sized halibut must be handled, use a small-meshed (knotless) net to bring undersized fish close enough to dislodge the hook and ensure safe release.
- Try to keep undersized fish in the water to prevent tail splitting.
- The Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement stamp is no longer required on recreational fishing licenses.
- A current recreational fishing license is required to be in your possession unless fishing from a public pier or under the age of 16, or on a free fishing day.
- A current commercial fishing license is required for take with intent to sell of any fish; and the boat, if used, must be currently registered as a commercial fishing vessel.



Catch of the day! Three anglers fishing from Berkeley Marina display their catches after an interview with a DFG biologist. These halibut were caught while drifting with live bait. DFG photo by A. Vincent

With multiple launch ramps and piers providing recreational fishing access to the bay, and no special permits required for commercial fishermen, the California halibut hook-and-line fisheries are both popular and accessible.

Fishing Regulations and Methods

Specific regulations apply when fishing in San Francisco Bay. Recreational anglers are limited to one fishing line with no more than three separate hooks or lures unless fishing from a public pier where two lines are allowed. When fishing from a boat, recreational fishing is restricted to daylight hours only (one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset). Commercial fishermen are limited to no more than four troll or hand lines with two hooks each unless there is more than one commercial fisherman on-board, in which case no more than six lines with two hooks each may be used.

Most anglers report fishing success when

"Halibut" continued on page 5



Fishermen enjoy the scenery while fishing under high clouds and fog on San Francisco Bay

DFG photo by A. Vincent

drifting with live bait, though trolling with bait is also popular. Tidal fluxes affect bay conditions, with flooding tides bringing baitfish to the far edges of San Pablo Bay and South Bay, and ebbing tides bunching bait schools into deeper water around Alcatraz and Angel islands. Predators like halibut and striped bass follow these tidal rhythms. Unlike striped bass, halibut bite best when the tidal flux is low and turbidity is

minimal. Along with halibut and striped bass, anglers report hooking up with white seabass, bat rays, and gray smoothhound, brown smoothhound, and leopard sharks in the bay.

California halibut fishing is open year-round, but the "bite" in the bay is thought to start in earnest in March after the freshwater flush from the Delta subsides. The bite continues through summer into fall when adults congregate on the shallow flats near the Golden Gate Bridge, Central Bay, lower San Pablo Bay, and South Bay before spawning and moving into deeper water for the winter.

For more information about the California halibut fisheries in San Francisco Bay, visit the DFG's State Finfish Management Project Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/sfmp or contact DFG Marine Biologist Adrienne Vincent at (650) 631-2534 or avincent@dfg.ca.gov.



DFG biologist Travis Tanaka prepares to place a captured San Francisco Bay halibut into an onboard holding tank. This halibut was caught as part of a short-term hooking study.

DFG photo by A. Vincent

Additional Information

- DFG Expands California Halibut Sampling www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/newsletter/1207.asp#halibut
- California Recreational Fisheries Survey www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/crfs.asp
- RecFin: recreational fisheries statistics www.recfin.org
- CFIS: Commercial Fisheries Information System www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/fishing.asp#Commercial
- California Halibut Fact Sheet www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/californiahalibut.pdf
- For current ocean fishing regulations, visit the DFG Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine

south San Diego Bay during the 1997-98 El Niño event.

The capture of these fish documents the first known occurrence of *juvenile* Mexican lookdown in California. The specimens are now housed in the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History fish collection, and a scientific note about the discovery has been submitted for publication in the quarterly periodical *California Fish and Game*.

This rare fish find occurred during a two-year surf fish study conducted by the DFG. Between May 2007 and Sept. 2009, biologists collected monthly data on length, abundance, and movement of fishes in the surf zone. Biologists are still interested in any tagged

surf fish recaptures. Anglers who catch a tagged fish should record when and where they caught the fish, the tag number, and the length of the fish, and call the DFG at the phone number on the tag. If the angler releases the fish, the tag should remain attached. A t-shirt will be mailed to every angler who reports a valid tag number from a tagged fish as a reward for helping the DFG with this study. Anglers should note that all fishing regulations still apply.

For more information, visit the Surf Fish Population Studies Web page at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/scuba/surfzone.asp or call the DFG at (562) 342-7174.



UPDATES

Marine Management News

Ocean Sport Fishing Regulation Changes for 2010

by DFG Staff

Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp Repealed (effective Jan. 1, 2010)

Beginning January 1, anglers are no longer required to have a Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp affixed to their Sport Fishing License to fish in Bay-Delta waters.

New Marine Protected Areas (effective Apr. 1, 2010)
Beginning April 1, 21 new marine protected areas, two state marine recreational management areas, and six special closure areas take effect from Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County, to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County. For more information, visit the MLPA North-Central Coast Study Region Web page at www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/northcentralhome.asp.

“Wear Your License” Regulation Repealed (effective Mar. 1, 2010)
The Fish and Game Commission adopted regulations

ending the requirement that anglers display their sport fishing license above the waist while fishing. Before March 1, 2010, however, anglers must still display their license above the waist.

Spiny Lobster Regulation Amended (effective March 1, 2010)

On December 10, 2009 the Fish and Game Commission adopted new regulatory language that requires spiny lobster to be kept in a whole, measurable condition until being prepared for consumption. See Section 29.90(e)

Also of Interest:

Purchase Sport Fishing Licenses Online

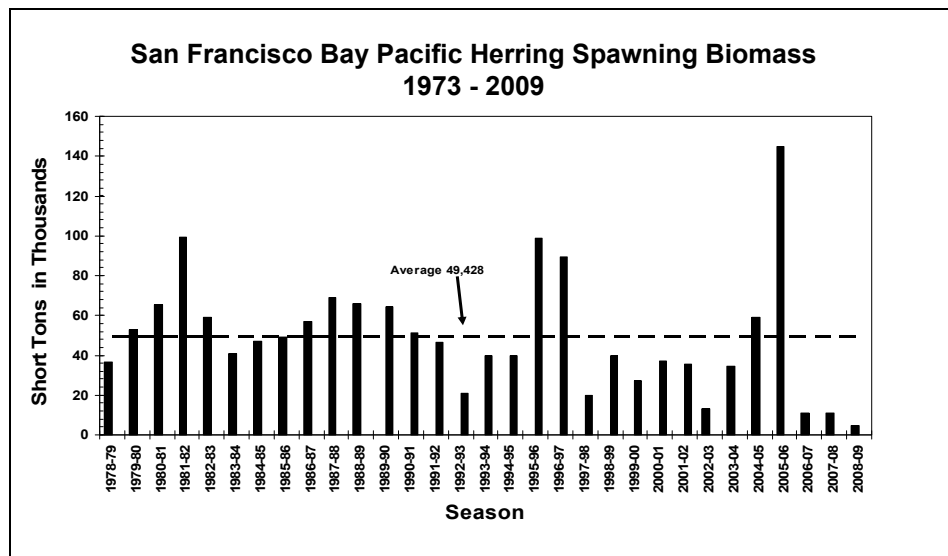
You can now purchase a California sport fishing license and stamps online. For more information, visit the DFG's license sales Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/ols/intro.html.

“Herring” continued from page 1

From 1998 to 2002, intermittent herring landings from ocean waters have accounted for approximately 0.2 percent of California’s overall herring catch. However, between 2005 and 2008, approximately 35 percent of the overall California commercial herring catch was landed by the ocean waters fishery. Due to the increase in overall catch by this fishery, emergency action was sought by the DFG to protect the remaining herring stock.

To address concerns about the long term sustainability of the fishery and the importance of Pacific herring as a forage species, the ABMP is currently developing a fishery management plan for Pacific herring. The goals of this plan include restoring a healthy age structure that includes all ages of fish, (generally to 8 years) to the population, managing commercial harvest to achieve a sustainable fishery, and providing forage to other species that utilize herring as a food source.

For more information visit the Herring Fishery Web page at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/herring.



Get Hooked on the Marine Region and MLPA Initiative Web Sites!

by Aaron Del Monte, Assistant Information Systems Analyst and Marine Region Webmaster

For the latest information on fishing regulations, marine resources, and news affecting our California coastline, your first stop should be the Department of Fish and Game Marine Region Web site, located at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine. This comprehensive information source currently contains well over 2,000 Web pages readily available to the public. If you are new to this Web site, we invite you to explore the valuable resources we have created. For those who have already visited the site, be sure to check back regularly, since new features, updates, and press releases are added every week. Here are some recent, noteworthy updates:

What is the Marine Region?

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/marineregion.asp

When visiting our site, one of your very first questions might be: "Where exactly is the Marine Region and what does the Marine Region do?" This page will answer these questions. In addition to an overview of the Marine Region, you will find a description of 14 current projects. Expanded content has recently been added for these projects:

Recreational Fishing Data Project
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/recfishingdata

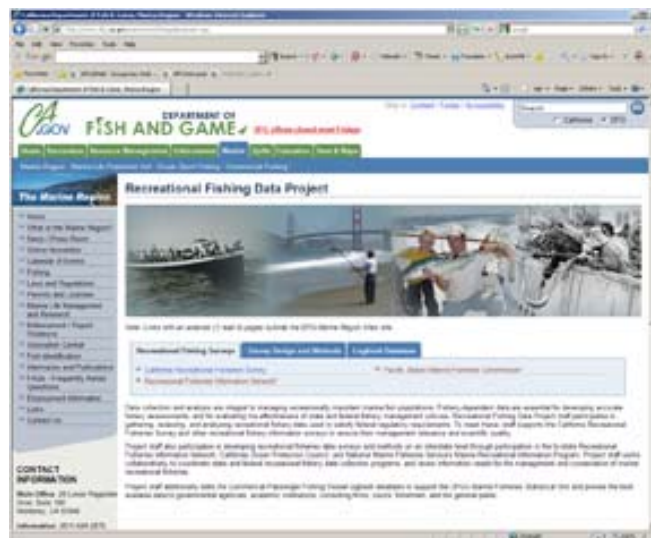
State Finfish Management Project
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/sfmp

Fisheries Independent/Scuba Assessment Project
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/scuba

Summary of Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations for 2010

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/bfregs2010.asp

If you plan to fish for groundfish anytime this year, be sure to visit this page. Easy-to-read tables identify not just the length of the season, but also depth limits, daily bag limits, and minimum size limits for several key species. Printer-friendly versions of the tables are available so you can bring this information with you on your next fishing trip.



The Recreational Fishing Data Project site contains information about some of the fishery-dependent data the DFG uses to monitor and manage marine fisheries.

Here are some of our most popular pages:

California Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations Map

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/fishing_map.asp

Going ocean fishing? This should be your first stop. Simply click the ocean location where you plan to fish and you will access a compact list of sport fishing regulations for that area. The pages are printer-friendly, so you can print the regulations and take them with you on your next fishing trip. These pages are updated frequently, so you can be assured that they contain the most up-to-date information.

Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/sportfishing_regs2010.asp



This page will feature the Ocean Sport Fishing regulations booklet scheduled for distribution in March, 2010. The bookmarked PDF file features bolded, italicized bookmark headings which denote sections that have changed or are new. In addition to the booklet, you

"Marine Region Website" continued on page 8



Support Our Fish and Game Wardens!

The 2010 California DFG Warden Stamp can now be purchased for \$5 at DFG regional and license offices, or by mailing in an order form. All proceeds will be deposited into a special account and used to provide important tools for California's 385 DFG wardens, including communications and surveillance devices, protective equipment, training, and the K-9 program. Wardens work hard to educate those they encounter in the outdoors, as well as school children in the classroom, about the importance of resource conservation, pollution prevention, and a healthy natural environment. For more information and an order form, visit the DFG Web site at

www.dfg.ca.gov/WardenStamp.  

Creature Feature

Barred Sand Bass

by DFG Staff



Barred sand bass may be found from Santa Cruz southward off California to a depth of 600 ft.; however, most fish are taken in 60 to 90 ft. of water. They are usually found near the sand/rock interfaces of deeper reefs and artificial submerged structures.

Distinguishing Characteristics

- Dark gray to greenish; gray-white on back, white on belly, dark vertical bars on sides; no spots
- Body elongate, mouth large; lower jaw protrudes slightly
- Third spine in dorsal fin is much longer than first two, and is the longest of the dorsal fin spines

Life History & Other Notes

The barred sand bass diet includes crabs, octopus, squid, and small fishes. Adult barred sand bass gather to spawn during the warm summer months. Their eggs are free-floating, and striped young appear in southern California nearshore areas and eelgrass beds during fall and winter.

Most barred sand bass landed in California are taken between May and October. They are fished in three main areas: Horseshoe Kelp to Newport Beach, Dana Point to Oceanside, and the Silver Strand off San Diego.

Barred sand bass are reserved only for sport fishermen (no commercial fishery exists). The best method for catching this fish is to search a sandy area with a fishfinder until a school is located. Anchor the boat and offer live anchovy for bait. If you chum with anchovy, barred sand bass will usually gather under the boat; thus it pays to wait awhile before moving to a different spot. 🐟

This Creature Feature is an excerpt from the California Finfish and Shellfish Identification Book available from the DFG Publications Office (contact (916) 322-8978 or publications@dfg.ca.gov). The book was created as part of the California Fishing Passport Program, which showcases different species of fish available to California anglers. The California Fishing Passport, a free fishing journal, is the basis of the program. For more information, visit www.fishingpassport.org.



CALIFORNIA'S OCEAN FISH
Originals · Prints · Posters · by Amadeo Bachar

Available at
www.abachar.com

"Marine Region Web Site" continued from page 7

will find links to in-season regulation changes, helpful illustrations and more.

Fishing Page

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/fishing.asp

One of our most popular pages of all, this page contains links to the two resources listed above, as well as information on specific species, laws and regulations, permits and licenses, record fish and invertebrate trophies, fish identification guides, and a number of annual reports and sets of data. Whether you are a recreational or commercial fisherman, you're sure to find some useful information on this page.

Fish Identification Page

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/fishid.asp

Do you need to identify a fish or shellfish? This page contains a useful collection of photos, brochures and other resources to help you correctly identify your catch.

Thank you for using the Marine Region Web site as a resource for news, information and regulations. We hope you will visit our site again soon! 🐟

Barred Sand Bass

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Paralabrax nebulifer

OTHER COMMON NAMES

sand bass, ground bass, sandy

RANGE & HABITAT

Santa Cruz southward off rocky reefs and artificial structure

LENGTH & WEIGHT

To 26 in. and ~11 lb.

LIFESPAN

To 24 YEARS

DIET & SUGGESTED BAIT/LURES

Feeds on crabs, squid, octopus, and small fishes. Try using live anchovies for bait and artificial lures

The Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Web Site

www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa

This partnership between government agencies and private entities is striving to achieve the original Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) goals. The 1999 MLPA directed the state to design and manage a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in order to, among other things, protect marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage, as well as improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems. This Web site contains up-to-date information about this challenging endeavor, including meeting information, public comments and documents for review. Current popular resources on the site include:

North Coast Region

www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/northcoast.asp

The planning process for the North Coast Region (California/Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County) is currently underway. Public meetings and workshops in this region give Californians opportunities to learn about and get involved in the planning process.

South Coast Region

www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/southcoast.asp

The planning process for the South Coast Region (Point Conception to the California-Mexico border) has been completed. An MPA proposal was unanimously adopted on November 10, 2009 by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, known as the MLPA South Coast Integrated Preferred Alternative MPA Proposal. This proposal was presented to the California Fish and Game Commission on December 9, 2009. The regulatory process is now under way.

North-Central Coast Region

www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/northcentralhome.asp

On August 5, 2009, the Fish and Game Commission voted to adopt its preferred alternative proposal for the MLPA North-Central Coast Study Region (Alder Creek near Point Arena in Mendocino County, to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County). This act established 21 marine protected areas, three state marine recreational management areas, and six special closures covering approximately 153 square miles of state ocean waters. These adopted MPAs are expected to take effect on April 1, 2010.

Central Coast MPAs

www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/ccmpas_list.asp

California's Central Coast MPAs took effect September 21, 2007. From Pigeon Point (San Mateo County) south to Point Conception (Santa Barbara County), the 29 MPAs represent approximately 204 square miles of state waters. This page contains descriptions and maps of all 29 MPAs, and includes links to a printer-friendly guide and brochure.

Upcoming Commission and Council Meetings

2010 Fish and Game Commission

www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2009/2009mtgs.asp

February 3-4
Sacramento

March 3-4
Upland/Ontario

April 7-8
Monterey

May 5-6
Stockton

June 23-24
Greater Sacramento
Area

August 4-5
Santa Barbara

2010 Pacific Fishery Management Council

www.pcouncil.org/events/future.html

March 6-12
Sacramento CA

April 10-15
Portland OR

June 12-17
Foster City CA

September 11-16
Boise ID

November 4-9
Costa Mesa CA

For the latest information on upcoming fishery-related meetings, please go to our Calendar of Events at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/calendar.asp or contact the Monterey DFG office at (831) 649-2870.

MARINE Management News

Marine Management News is published three times per year by the Marine Region of the California Department of Fish and Game for everyone interested in the management and conservation of California's living marine resources. Through this newsletter we hope to keep all associates and constituents interested in participating in and/or tracking the progress of the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) informed of developments. The MLMA strongly emphasizes an open decision-making process that involves people interested in or affected by management measures.

For more information on the MLMA or to sign up to become more involved, please visit our Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine.

Newsletter Editor and Designer
Mary Patyten

Staff Writers and Contributors to This Issue
Ryan Bartling, Aaron Del Monte, Heather Gliniak,
Mary Patyten, Adrienne Vincent

Please direct all correspondence to:
California Department of Fish and Game
Marine Management News
19160 South Harbor Drive
Fort Bragg, California 95437

The Marine Life Management Act

California's Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) of 1998 is an innovative, collaborative, science-based approach to managing all of California's living marine resources. One of its major goals is the long-term sustainability of our resources and our fisheries. The MLMA recognizes and values the non-consumptive benefits of healthy marine life as well as the interests of those who are economically dependent upon them. Implementation and enforcement of the MLMA is the responsibility of the California Department of Fish and Game, whose mission is to conserve wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend through good science and informed citizen involvement. For more information visit www.dfg.ca.gov/marine.

DFG Marine Region mission:

"To protect, maintain, enhance, and restore California's marine ecosystems for their ecological values and their use and enjoyment by the public through good science and effective communication."

Alternate communication formats of this document are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, call DFG at (707) 964-5026. The California Relay Service for the deaf or hearing impaired can be utilized from TDD phones at (800) 733-2929.