

State of California - The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Marine Resources Division
Long Beach, California

CRUISE REPORT 85-X-16

OBSERVATION OF MULTIPLE - DAY SET GILL NET ACTIVITY
Prepared by Rhonda J. Reed

Vessel: R/V SPIRIT

Dates: December 11 - 12, 1985

Locality: Northern Channel Islands (Anacapa, Santa Cruz,
Santa Rosa Islands)

Purpose: To observe the catches and fishing operations of
commercial set gill net vessels fishing in the
nearshore waters of the northern Channel Islands.

Procedure: Set gill net vessels in the sampling area were
approached and, if fishing, requested permission
to place an observer onboard. Contact was generally
made in the morning, before the nets were pulled, or
in the afternoon, after the nets were set. If
permission to board was granted, the observer was
transferred to the vessel directly from the R/V
SPIRIT in the morning and retrieved after all the
nets had been pulled.

Results: Four boats were contacted during the two cruise days,
which were spent at Santa Cruz Island. Two complete
trip-days, two partial trip-days and a total of 9
sets were observed. All of the sets targeted angel
shark. Of the 282 angel shark taken in the nets, 93%
were female, many of which were aborting partially
developed embryos. All of the embryos appeared to be
at the same stage of development, with yolk sacs
approximately equal to the embryo body size.

Personnel: Peter Howorth, Vessel Captain
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