

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

Cruise Report 71-KB-13  
BIG GAME FISH INVESTIGATIONS

Prepared by Brian D. Thayer

Vessel: KELP BASS

Dates: October 4 - October 8, 1971

Locality: The coastal waters of southern California and its offshore islands.

Purpose:

1. To tag and release Pacific bonito, *Sarda chiliensis*.
2. To tag and release Pacific mackerel, *Scomber japonicus* and jack mackerel, *Trachurus symmetricus* caught incidentally.
3. To make collections as requested by other projects.

Operations: Trolling with albacore feather jigs was conducted around Anacapa Island, Santa Catalina Island and the nearshore area between La Jolla and Seal Beach to locate suitable concentrations of bonito for tagging. The large winch boom on the vessel was tested as an outrigger pole for handling the jig lines. Various areas were fished using live bait and "chumming" to obtain bonito for tagging. Lights were used at night to attract various species of fish.

Results: A total of 10 bonito was tagged; 3 near Encinitas and 7 near Seal Beach. No bonito were caught in any of the other areas visited during the cruise. The winch boom proved satisfactory as an outrigger pole for handling the jig lines.

Incidental catches of jack and Pacific mackerel resulted in 7 jack mackerel being tagged and released at Santa Catalina Island, and 24 Pacific mackerel tagged and released near La Jolla and Encinitas. A sample of three Pacific mackerel from the La Jolla area was taken for age determination.

Personnel:

- M. Mazarovich, Vessel Captain
- B. Thayer, Biologist-in-charge
- J. Phelan, Biologist
- K. Farnum, Seasonal Aid
- D. Schultze, Seasonal Aid