

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

CRUISE REPORT 72-KB-21 MARINE ATLAS SURVEY

Prepared by Robert R. Bell

Vessel: R/V "KELP BASS"
Dates: August 31 - September 1, 1972
Locality: San Nicolas and Santa Barbara Islands.
Purpose: To prepare appropriate sections of the Marine Resources Atlas.
Operations: A survey of kelp beds, sea lion hauling out, bird rookeries, pelagic birds and fishing activities was conducted about the two islands.
Results: Surface observation of kelp beds tends to under estimate the size of beds as compared with aerial surveys which, on the other hand, may over estimate areas.

The survey found several brown pelican rookeries on San Nicolas Island. One rookery consisted of 500 birds.

Pelagic birds observed about the two islands are listed below:

Pink-footed Shearwater	Northern Phalarope
Manx Shearwater	Parasitic Jaeger
Sooty Shearwater	Long-tailed Jaeger
Black Petrel	Western Gull
Ashy Petrel	California Gull
Brown Pelican	Heerman Gull
Brandt Cormorant	Sabine Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	Arctic Tern
Red Phalarope	Marbled Murrelet

No abalone or lobster fishing was observed because of the August closure for abalone and the summer closure for lobster. Several plank boats and trollers were anchored off the west end of San Nicolas Island the night of August 31. Five inch shell casings were floating in the channel between Santa Barbara Island and the west end of Santa Catalina Island (an unexploited resource for scrap brass).

Personnel: Marco Mazarovich, Vessel Captain
Robert R. Bell, Biologist-in-charge
Rolf E. Mall, Biologist
Timothy Farley, Biologist