

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

CRUISE REPORT 72-KB-29  
SPORTFISH-KELP HABITAT STUDY DJ F-27-R

Prepared by Peter L. Haaker

Vessel: R/V KELP BASS

Dates: November 14-16, 1972

Locality: Nearshore waters of Catalina Island and Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Purpose:

1. To perform maintenance on existing kelp transplants.
2. To prepare substrate for attachment of new transplants.
3. To transplant kelp from Santa Catalina Island to Abalone Cove.
4. To inspect experimental kelp transplant site at Catalina Island.
5. To make incidental collections as requested by other projects.

Procedure: Divers inspected the experimental kelp transplant site at Catalina Island. Kelp plants were collected, bagged, and transported to Abalone Cove for transplant.

Hook and line and spearfishery techniques were used to collect local sportfishes.

Results: The departure of this cruise was delayed one day due to high winds and seas.

Investigation of the experimental kelp transplant site at Catalina was revealed that the plants did not seem to be adversely affected by transplantation, and grazing damage was slight. Chaffing of the haptera and primary stipe was noted, and two plants had lost all stipes. A modified method of tying plants to the bottom to prevent undue wear on plant parts is necessary and will be developed.

Thirty-one *Macrocystis* plants were collected at Catalina Island. Weather conditions in Abalone Cove prevented divers from entering the water to secure the plants. All transplants had to be disposed of at sea as they could not be stored.

Members of the Sportfish Improvement Project collected sportfishes for their reference collection and assisted in the collection of kelp transplants. Fishes caught included sheephead, *Pimelometopon pulchrum*; se orita, *Oxyjulus californica*; topmelt, *Atherinops affinis*; kelp bass, *Paralabrax clathratus*; and black perch, *Embiotoca jacksoni*. Sheephead were also taken for the coastal sportfish project.

Personnel: Marco Mazarovich, Vessel Captain  
Ken Wilson, Biologist-in-charge  
Paul Gregory, Biologist  
Pete Haaker, Biologist  
Dan Odenweller, Biologist  
Dave Ono, Biologist

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