

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

CRUISE REPORT 73-KB-27

BIG GAME FISH INVESTIGATIONS

Prepared by Gail Campbell

Vessel: R/V KELP BASS

Dates: October 16-19, 1973

Locality: Inshore waters from Point Dume to Gaviota

Purpose:

1. To tag and release Pacific bonito (*Sarda chiliensis*) and California barracuda (*Sphyrna argentea*).
2. To collect eye lenses from Pacific bonito for population studies.
3. To tag and release any Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) and jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*) taken incidentally.
4. To make incidental collections as requested by other investigations.

Procedure: Trolling with jigs was conducted during daylight hours in order to capture fish for tagging. Still fishing with bait was done under lights at night.

Results: Due to dense fog, fishing time was restricted to a day and a half. Fishing effort was concentrated from Point Dume to Gaviota with most effort occurring offshore of Santa Barbara. A total of 16 bonito, ranging in size from 51 to 66 cm, was tagged and released. These fish were in the I and II age groups. All bonito were caught on trolled jigs during daylight hours. Sea surface water temperatures ranged from 60 to 62.5°F. No Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, or barracuda were tagged.

Personnel: Marco Mazarovich, Vessel Captain
Gail Campbell, Biologist-in-charge
Donald Schultze, Biologist