

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

CRUISE REPORT 73-KB-30 - LOBSTER

Prepared by Robert Hardy

Vessel: KELP BASS
Dates: November 12-14, 1973
Locality: Isthmus Cove, Santa Catalina Island
Purpose: To collect California spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*) for life history studies.
Procedure: Trapping for lobster was conducted in areas of suitable lobster habitat in the vicinity of Isthmus Cove utilizing both commercial traps (2" x 4" mesh) and small fish (1" x 1") traps. Traps were fished at depths ranging from 25 to 150 ft.

All lobsters caught the first night were retained aboard during the second night's fishing, to assure that we were not recatching the same animals. All lobsters caught were measured and sexed. Blood samples were taken from several animals for blood chemistry studies.

Results: Two nights of trapping, using 29 traps, yielded 383 lobsters. The small mesh traps retained considerably smaller lobsters than the commercial traps (Table 1). Fifty-four trap-nights at 30 - 70 ft produced 6.74 lobsters per trap, while 4 trap-nights at 150 ft yielded 4.75 lobsters per trap.

TABLE 1. Comparison of Sizes of Lobsters Caught in Traps of Different Mesh Size

	Mesh Size	
	1" x 1"	2" x 4"
Carapace length, range (mm)	43-126	64-144
Carapace length, median (mm)	78	86
Carapace length, % legal size	29.9	59.8

Personnel: Marco Mazarovich, Vessel Captain
R. Hardy, Biologist-in-charge
C. Haugen, Biologist
B. McAllister, Biologist