

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

CRUISE REPORT 73-KB-33

ABALONE - LOBSTER INVESTIGATIONS

Prepared by Robert A. Hardy

Vessel: KELP BASS

Dates: December 3-7, 1973

Locality: In the vicinity of Santa Catalina Island

- Purpose:
1. To collect and tag juvenile green abalone, *Haliotis fulgens* for growth studies.
 2. To collect spiny lobster, *Panulirus interruptus* for marking.
 3. Obtain lobster blood samples.

Procedure: Abalone were collected by divers in the Johnson Rock area at about 3 to 15 ft depths. All abalone collected were tagged aboard the KELP BASS and then released near the area of capture.

Trapping for lobster was conducted in areas of suitable lobster habitat in the vicinity of Isthmus Cove utilizing both commercial traps (2 ft x 4 inch mesh) and small mesh (1 inch x 1 inch) traps. Traps were fished at depths ranging from 20 to 70 ft. Additional lobster were captured by hand during night dives. All lobster caught were measured and sexed and all those between 40 mm and 111 mm were marked with coded tail punches corresponding to 3 mm carapace length (C.L.) size groupings. Blood samples were drawn from those lobster not marked.

Results: A total of 323 juvenile green abalone (*Haliotis fulgens*) was tagged and released in the Johnson Rock area.

Four nights of trapping yielded 421 spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*). A total of 377 were in our marking size range. These were tail punched and all were released in the general area of capture.

Night diving effort accounted for 41 lobster in our tagging size range, giving a grand total of 418 marked lobster released.

Personnel: Marco Mažarovich, Vessel Captain
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