

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

CRUISE REPORT 74-KB-22

ABALONE INVESTIGATIONS

Prepared by R. Burge

Vessel: R/V KELP BASS

Dates: September 3-16, 1974

Locality: Russian River to Shelter Cove

Objectives:

1. To inspect traditional red abalone, *Haliotis rufescens*, fishing areas and unfished areas to determine species present, spatial distribution and relative abundance.
2. To identify common subtidal floral and faunal components.
3. To determine size-class distribution of red abalone in fished and unfished areas.

Procedures: Divers planned to occupy pre-selected stations in traditional abalone fishing areas and in unfished areas. Information recorded during each dive was to include: counts of each species of abalone; estimates of major floral and faunal components; relative abundance of abalone competitors and predators; and physical data such as bottom type, depth, temperature and visibility.

Divers also planned to inspect red abalone nursery areas.

Results: Heavy swell and wind chop prevailed during the entire cruise precluding safe diving and vessel operations. The cruise was terminated at Bodega Bay on September 11 during gale warnings.

Personnel:

- R. Burge, Biologist-in-charge
- M. Odemar, Biologist
- J. DeMartini, Professor, Humboldt State Univ.
- D. Heacock, Student, Humboldt State Univ.
- A. Giorgi, Student, Humboldt State Univ.

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