

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

CRUISE REPORT 74-KB-32 - LOBSTER

Prepared by Charles Haugen

Vessel: R/V KELP BASS

Dates: December 11-13, 1974

Locality: Santa Catalina Island

Purpose: 1. To collect California spiny lobster, *Panulirus interruptus*,  
for life history studies.  
2. To evaluate escape ports in commercial traps.

Procedure: Lobsters were trapped in rocky bottom habitat near Isthmus  
Cove using commercial traps with 5.1 x 10.2-cm (2 x 4-inch)  
mesh, and 2.5 x 2.5-cm (1 x 1-inch) and 2.5 x 5.1-cm (1 x  
2-inch) mesh traps. Thirteen of 34 commercial traps were  
fitted with experimental escape ports and 10 small mesh  
traps were used. All lobsters caught were measured, sexed,  
and released.

Results: Two nights of trapping, totaling 88 trap pulls, caught 175  
lobsters of which 69 (39.4%) were legal size. Females com-  
prised 30.9% (54) of the catch; none carried eggs.

Recaptures of marked lobsters accounted for 32% (56) of  
the catch. Forty-three had been recaptured on previous  
cruises; 13 were recaptured for the first time.

Commercial traps without escape ports caught 39 legal lob-  
sters and 52 shorts. Those with escape ports caught 18  
legals and 3 shorts. Small mesh traps took 12 legals and  
51 shorts. Catch per haul rates were:

Commercial traps without escape ports:	legal - 0.93
	short - 1.24
Commercial traps with escape ports:	legal - 0.69
	short - 0.12
Small mesh traps:	legal - 0.60
	short - 2.56

Personnel: M. Mazarovich, Vessel Captain  
C. Haugen, Biologist-in-charge, DFG  
P. Lehtonen, Biologist, DFG  
J. Engle, Biologist, USC

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