

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

CRUISE 71-S-6 SPORTFISH INVESTIGATIONS

Prepared by Parke Young

Vessel: N. B. SCOFIELD

Dates: August 24 - September 6, 1971

Locality: The nearshore waters of Baja California.

Purpose:

1. To capture, tag, and release sand bass, *Paralabrax nebulifer*.
2. To recapture sand bass tagged and released during cruise 70-S-6, to determine growth rates of bass at liberty for a one-year period.
3. To make incidental collections of fishes and invertebrates.

Results:

Tagging - A total of 1176 sand bass was tagged and released in Sebastian Vizcaino Bay, 28°02'N, 114°23'W.

Recaptures - Only one sand bass was recaptured from the 694 fish released in Sebastian Vizcaino Bay during cruise 70-S-6. At release, this bass was 498 mm total length. At recapture, it was 500 mm, a growth increment of 2 mm over a 344 day period. There was no evidence of a migration.

General - Because the bass taken for tagging during this cruise were from 22 fathoms, each one had to be deflated before it could be tagged and released. A large hypodermic needle inserted into the air bladder at a point above the pectoral fin allowed air to escape, which made it possible for a released fish to return to the bottom. An estimated 10-15 percent of the total bass taken did not warrant tagging. Incidental catches consisted of Pacific mackerel, *Scomber japonicus*; giant sea bass, *Stereolepis gigas*; lizard fish, *Synodus lucioceps*; sanddabs, *Citharichthys* sp.; golden spotted rock bass, *Paralabrax auroguttatus*; kelp bass, *Paralabrax clathratus*; spotted sand bass, *Paralabrax maculatofasciatus*; barracuda, *Sphyræna argenteus*; California yellowtail, *Seriola dorsalis*; and ocean whitefish, *Caulolatilus princeps*.

Personnel: Anthony Black, Vessel Captain
Parke Young, Biologist-in-charge
Jack Schott, Biologist
Richard Sandell, Seasonal Aid