

State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Marine Resources Operations
California State Fisheries Laboratory
Terminal Island, California

Cruise Report 65-S5, Rockfish
Prepared by J. B. Phillips

Vessel: N. B. Scofield

Dates: Departed from San Pedro August 30, 1965; returned September 16.

Locality: Southern California islands and offshore banks.

Purpose: 1) To obtain, for taxonomic studies, species of rockfishes (family Scorpaenidae) found in southern California waters.

2) To save eye lenses from certain species for a comparison of their proteins as a possible means of separating non-interbreeding populations.

Results: 1) Hook-and-line fishing was conducted in depths from 10 to 275 fathoms, but mostly shallower than 150 because of faulty wire on the deep-sea reels. Most widespread of the 33 species taken was the vermilion rockfish, Sebastes miniatus; it was taken in all general areas fished. Nearly as common were the green-spotted, S. chlorostictus and pink rockfish, S. eos, followed by rosy, S. rosaceus; starry, S. constellatus; bocaccio, S. paucispinis; chilipepper, S. goodei; and speckled rockfish, S. ovalis. The largest rockfish was a 22-pound cow, S. levis, a species that appears to favor bank habitats rather than areas adjacent to land masses.

A number of rockfish were frozen for taxonomic studies. Examination of freshly caught specimens indicates that S. rufus, previously considered a synonym of S. ovalis, is a separate species.

Other than rockfish, the most commonly caught fish was the Pacific sanddab, Citharichthys sordidus. Ocean whitefish, Caulolatilus princeps, and sheephead, Pimelometopon pulchrum, were common also. Blue sharks, Prionace glauca, were a nuisance in some areas.

Surface seawater temperatures varied from 61 to 69^oF., but 65^oF. water was the usual thing.

2) Eye lenses were taken from a number of rockfish species and frozen for appraisal by personnel at California State Fisheries Laboratory.

Personnel: Richard B. Mitchell, Vessel Captain
J. B. Phillips, Biologist

