



# Barred Sand Bass Update



6 November 2025

*Presented to:*

**Marine Resources  
Committee**

*Presented by:*

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CDFW Marine Region**



# Current Bass (*Paralabrax sp.*) Regulations

- CCR, Title 14, Section 28.30. Bass - Barred Sand, Kelp, and Spotted Sand
  - a. Minimum size: 14 inches total length or 10 inches alternate length
  - b. Limit: Five, in any combination of species, **except as provided in subsection (c)**
  - c. **Barred sand bass: Notwithstanding subsection (b), a maximum of 4 barred sand bass (BSB) may be taken or possessed**
  - d. **Sunset provision: Subsection (c) shall remain in effect until June 1, 2028, and as of that date is repealed**



Photo credit CDFW



# Stakeholder Engagement

Ideas and methods that will:

- Inform a stock assessment and management strategy evaluation
- Improve understanding of the BSB population and fishery
- Develop a community of practice dedicated to stewardship





# BSB Working Group (BSBWG) Meetings

- Informal advisory body composed of members of the recreational fishing industry, research scientists, and nongovernmental organizations.
- Charged with identifying gaps in essential fishery information and life history, reviewing stock assessment results, and advising CDFW on potential regulation changes to the BSB fishery.

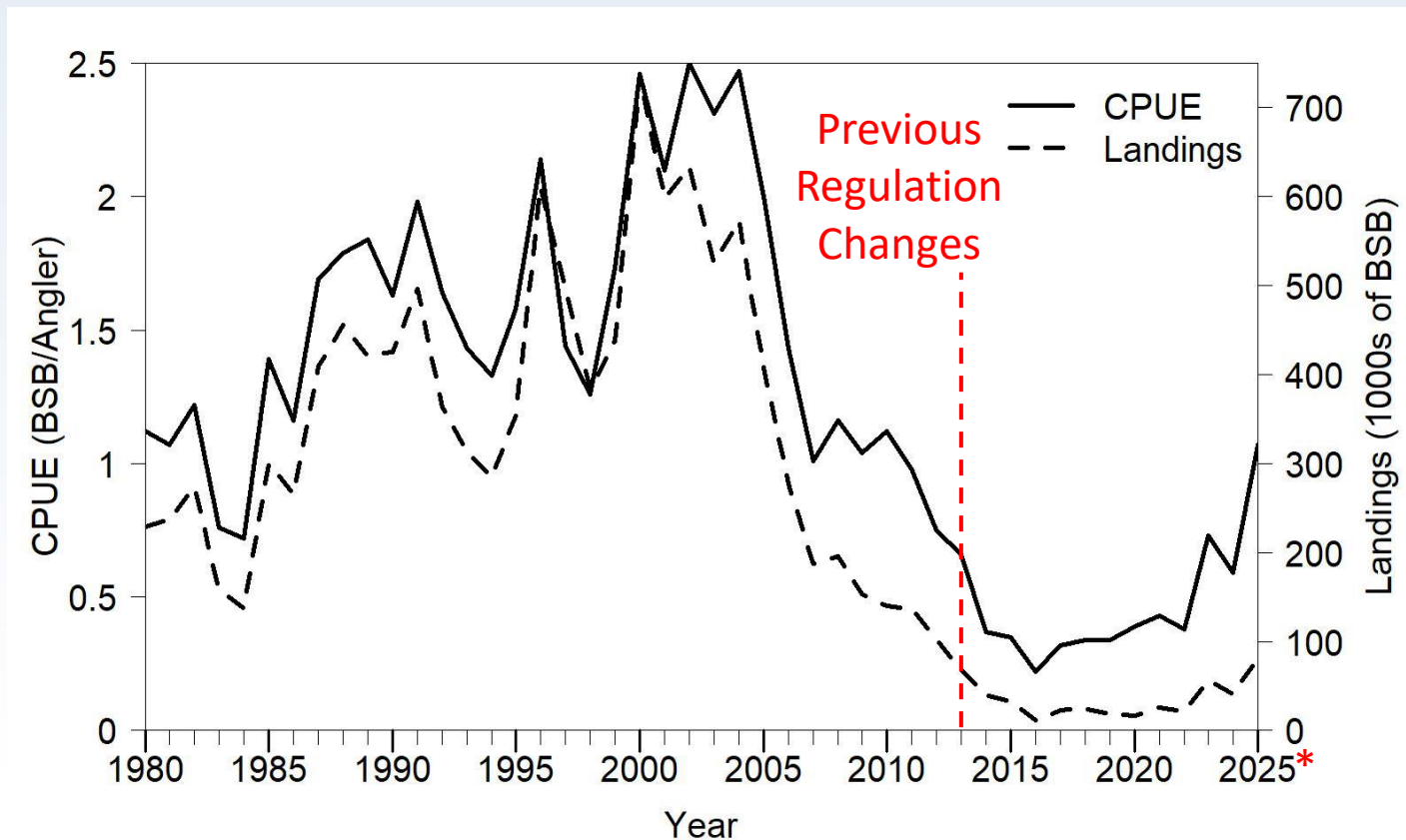


Photo credit CDFW



# BSB CPFV Landings 1980 – 2025\*

- Some return of BSB spawning aggregations throughout southern California
- 2025 landings >81,000 through September
  - ~41,000 landed in 2024 (MLS 2025)



CDFW Marine Log System (MLS) 2025  
\* Denotes preliminary data



# Moving Forward

July 2, 2025  
September 26, 2025

- Reconvene BSBWG with focus on research and data needs for stock assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

2025 - 2028

- Collect data for use in the stock assessment and MSE
- Conduct stock assessment and MSE with BSBWG
- Recommendations to FGC on regulatory changes

4 data types identified to collaboratively fill BSB life history gaps or make current data more robust for stock assessment

- Age structure
- Maturity and fecundity
- Release data
- Movement and migration





# CDFW BSB Aging Study

- Goal: obtain the age distribution of BSB caught from the CPFV fishery to use in the stock assessment
  - length, sex, location, and otoliths of the first 15 BSB caught per trip including sublegals
  - 272 BSB otoliths through mid-October

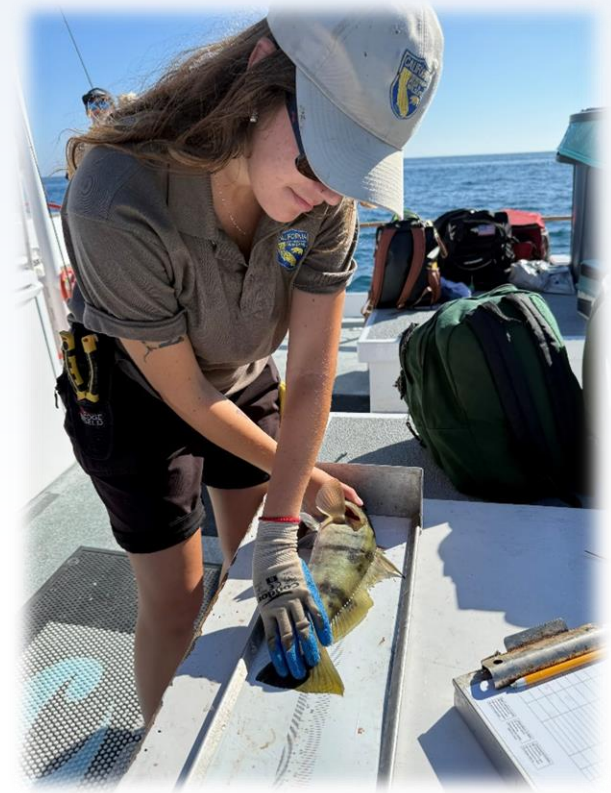
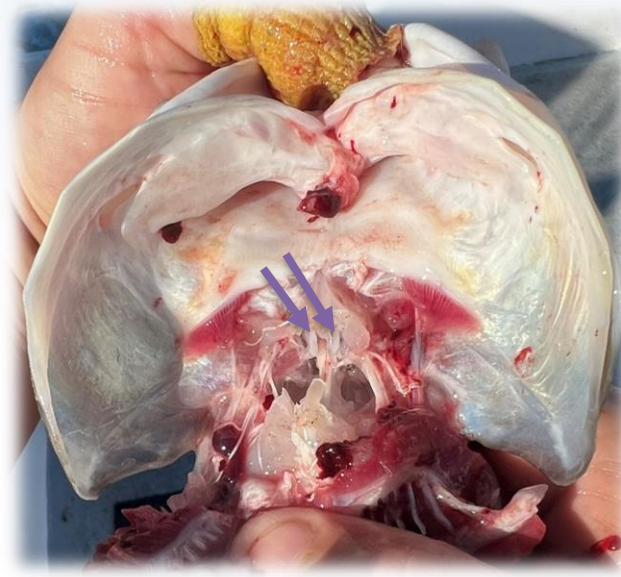


Photo credit CDFW



# Collaborative Data Collection

- CCA California STAR Tournament
  - Catch per unit effort (CPUE)
  - Release data
- Sportfishing Association of CA (SAC)
  - Bluefin Data CalFishOCR (Optical Character Recognition)
  - Lengths for retained and released BSB
  - Summer pilot with 50 photo submissions



Photo Credit CCA Cal



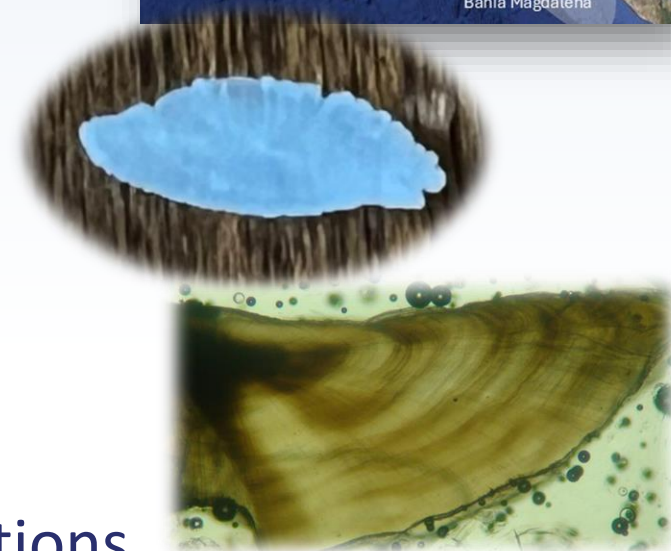
Photo Credit Brian Woolley





# Future Research Studies

- Is the southern California BSB population locally sustained or reliant on migration from Baja California?
  - UCSD/CDFW Natural Tagging Study
    - Analyze trace elemental compositions and spectral signals of otoliths
    - Quantify latitudinal migration from distinct geographic locations
    - Funding pending (USC Sea Grant)
  - PIER Spaghetti Tagging Study
    - Southern CA to central Baja California
    - Recapture tagged BSB at southern CA spawning aggregations



# Thank You

**Armand Barilotti**

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Marine Region

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Enhanced Status Report:

<https://marinespecies.wildlife.ca.gov/barred-sand-bass/true/>