



2025

Marine Region

By The Numbers



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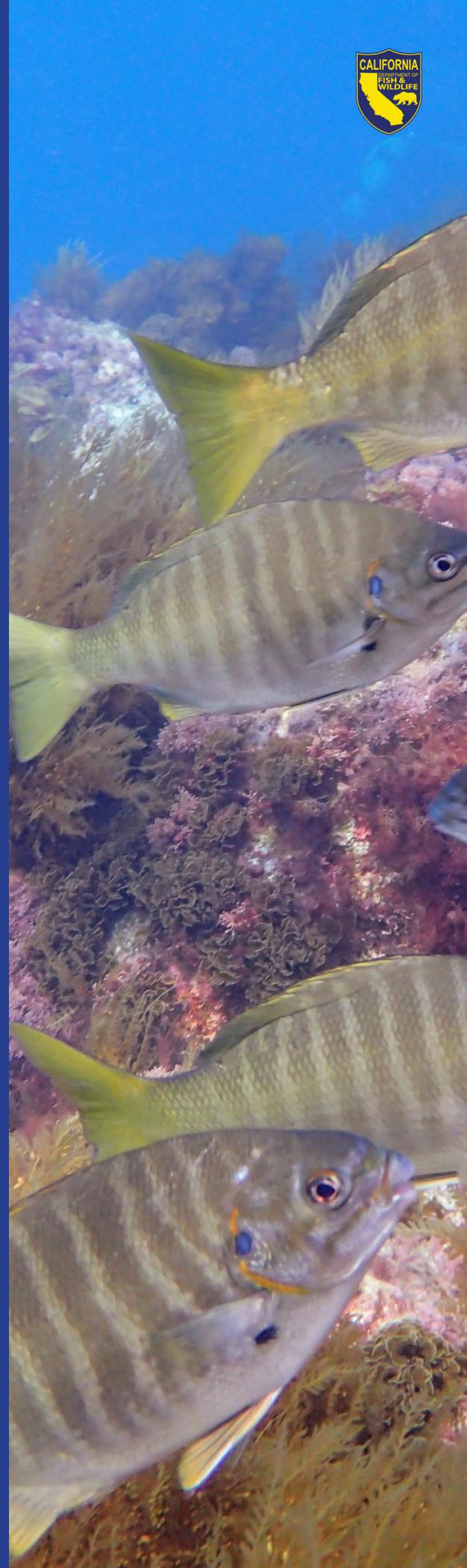
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Message from the Regional Manager



Albert Einstein once observed that, “in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” By this metric, 2025 was full of opportunities. [Closure of the commercial salmon season](#) for a third consecutive year delivered another devastating blow to California’s iconic salmon industry. While the distribution of federal fishery disaster relief from the 2023 closure was crucial to help many in the fleet stay afloat, it could not replace the economic and cultural value of a lost fishing season. On the recreational side, the two short recreational fishing opportunities in [June](#) and [September](#) gave us a brief reminder of what salmon fishing means to Californians and offered a renewed sense of hope as we work to restore our salmon populations. For the first time in over a century, [spawning salmon returned to coastal streams previously blocked by dams](#) - a positive sign for the recovery of salmon in the Klamath Basin.

California’s Dungeness crab fleets continued to navigate unprecedented challenges with this fall bringing a suite of season delays and gear restrictions [due to elevated entanglement risk and high levels of domoic acid](#). We collaborated with partners to update the regulatory requirements that govern our [Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program](#), distributed more than 4,000 coils (4,800,000 feet) of marked line to assist with entanglement identification, and authorized pop-up (aka ropeless) gear for widespread use in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery beginning spring 2026. This authorization represents a major milestone built on several years of innovation, testing, and collaboration.

Other notable achievements included the adoption of an [Amended Market Squid Fishery Management Plan](#) and action by the [California Fish and Game Commission](#) to rollback certain fishing restrictions, expanding groundfish fishing opportunities based on new and updated science. We celebrated global [recognition of California’s Marine Protected Area Network as the international gold standard for marine conservation](#) and maintained a sharp focus on widespread kelp loss by working with a diverse suite of partners and California Tribes to develop a statewide [Kelp Restoration and Management Plan](#). Restoring our kelp forests remains a top priority and is a critical step toward restoring our beloved abalone to California coastal waters.

Finally, our efforts to expand internal capacity for quantitative analysis to sustainably manage our fisheries are beginning to pay dividends. This year, Marine Region staff produced stock assessments of California halibut (*Paralichthys californicus*) and assisted with the federal assessment of quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*).

Through collaboration, determination, and innovation, we confronted the challenges and seized the opportunities in 2025 to achieve our mission to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore California’s marine ecosystems for their ecological values and their use and enjoyment by the public.

Dr. Craig Shuman





The Marine Region

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Region **7** is known as the Marine Region. It encompasses approximately **5,767** square statute miles of state waters, including San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay to the Carquinez Bridge.

For the **2024-2025** fiscal year, the Marine Region budget was **\$29,692,539**.

146 permanent staff as of December 31, 2025.
Temporary Positions: **7** Permanent Intermittent
Fish and Wildlife Technicians
55 Fish & Wildlife Scientific Aids





Commercial Fishing

Weight and Ex-Vessel Value¹ of Commercial Landings by Port Area²

Port Area	Pounds	Ex-Vessel Value
Santa Barbara	83,667,611	\$61,252,689
Los Angeles	86,715,792	\$49,500,651
Eureka	9,150,963	\$41,531,813
San Francisco	7,928,538	\$19,427,418
Monterey	16,686,737	\$11,472,086
San Diego	4,694,616	\$10,179,073
Bodega Bay	1,498,737	\$7,257,252
Fort Bragg	4,996,673	\$7,173,729
Morro Bay	1,552,849	\$4,530,552
TOTAL	216,892,516	\$212,325,263

¹Ex-Vessel Value is the amount paid to the fishermen at the dock.

²Port Area includes multiple ports in the same geographic region. A full list of the ports included in a given Port Area can be found in the Port [Reference Table](#).
Data as of 02/12/2026. Date Source: Department's Marine Region, Marine Fisheries Statistical Unit

Top 2025 Commercial Fishery Numbers



**Total Commercial Landing Fees
Collected for all Fisheries:**

\$1,373,425

Top Ex-Vessel Value:

\$82,883,790 Market squid

Top Weight:

174,231,738 lbs Market squid



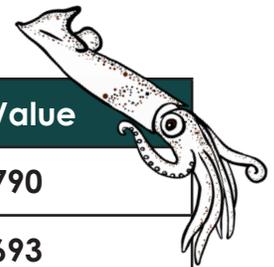


Commercial Vessel Registration and Fishing License Revenue

Type	Numbers Sold	Revenue
Resident Vessel	2,511	\$1,213,441
Non-Resident Vessel	263	\$373,526
Total Vessels	2,774	\$1,586,967
Resident License	4,647	\$880,467
Non-Resident License	575	\$315,531
Total Licenses	5,222	\$1,195,998

Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV permit) is a subset of the Resident and Non-Resident Vessel total. There were 562 Registered Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels with a total value of \$271,586. Data Source: Department's License and Revenue Branch. *Note that landings and value reported over the calendar year (January 1 – December 31) Data source: Department's Marine Region, Marine Fisheries Statistical Unit. Data as of 02/12/2026.

Top Fisheries Landed by Weight

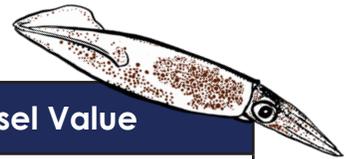


Fishery	Pounds	Ex-Vessel Value
Market Squid	174,231,738	\$82,883,790
Dungeness Crab	8,630,391	\$56,418,693
Sablefish	4,556,705	\$6,519,481
Northern Anchovy	3,383,125	\$517,414
Pacific Mackerel	3,267,785	\$876,555
Red Sea Urchin	2,604,620	\$9,526,361
Pacific Sardine	2,322,683	\$334,112
Chilipepper Rockfish	2,113,072	\$1,433,908
Dover Sole	1,443,344	\$617,784
Pacific Hagfish	1,336,281	\$1,453,929
Totals	203,889,743	\$160,582,027

Data as of 2/12/2026. *Note that landings and value are reported for the calendar year (January 1 – December 31). This may differ from seasonal landings for specific fisheries reported elsewhere. Data source: Department's Marine Region, Marine Fisheries Statistical Unit.



Top Fisheries by Ex-Vessel Value



Fishery	Pounds	Ex-Vessel Value
Market Squid	174,231,738	\$82,883,790
Dungeness Crab	8,630,391	\$56,418,693
California Spiny Lobster	1,088,052	\$12,409,728
Red Sea Urchin	2,604,620	\$9,526,361
California Halibut	1,174,031	\$6,544,919
Sablefish	4,556,705	\$6,519,481
Spot Prawn	145,889	\$3,466,725
Shortspine Thornyhead	332,506	\$2,559,373
Ridgeback Prawn	484,954	\$2,264,771
Yellow Rock Crab	953,549	\$2,184,640
Totals	194,202,433	\$184,778,481

Data as of 02/12/2026. *Note that landings and value reported over the calendar year (January 1 – December 31) This may differ from seasonal landings for specific fisheries reported elsewhere. Data source: Department's Marine Region, Marine Fisheries Statistical Unit

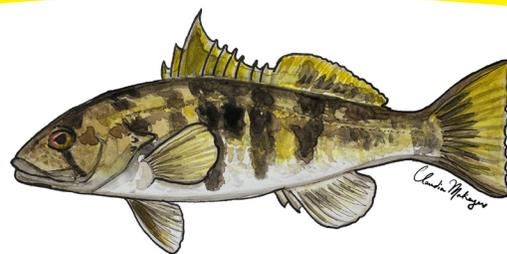
Commercial Landings - All Groundfish

Species	Pounds	Ex-Vessel Value
Nearshore ¹	439,654	\$2,951,657
Shelf and Slope Rockfish	4,288,079	\$4,126,531
Dover sole, Thornyheads, Sablefish (black cod)	6,359,573	\$9,725,830
Remaining Flatfish ²	1,556,167	\$1,835,960
Other ³	376,709	\$710,430
Totals	13,020,182	\$19,350,408

¹ Includes nearshore rockfish, California scorpionfish, cabezon, greenlings and California sheephead.
² Includes arrowtooth flounder (turbot), butter sole, curfin sole, English sole, Pacific sanddab, petrale sole, rex sole, sand sole and starry flounder.
³ Includes all remaining species in the federal groundfish Fishery Management Plan.
 Data Source: Department's Marine Landings Database System and includes landings reported through 01/29/2026.



Recreational Fishing



Top Types of Finfish Targeted by Recreational Anglers Based on Pounds of Fish Caught¹

Rank	Type of Fish	Estimated Pounds of Fish Caught ¹
1	Tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, & albacore)	>2,600,000 ²
2	Rockfish, Greenlings, and Cabezon	2,550,000
3	Lingcod	685,000
4	Flatfish (California halibut, Pacific sanddab, Pacific halibut, soles, & starry flounder)	644,000
5	California Scorpionfish	468,000
6	Saltwater Basses (barred sandbass, kelp bass, & spotted sand bass)	416,000
7	Chinook Salmon ³	269,000
8	Striped Bass	219,000
9	Ocean Whitefish	196,000
10	Croakers (White seabass, spotfin, white, & yellowfin croakers)	108,000

¹Fish Caught = fish kept and fish released dead, estimates are preliminary and may differ from what is used for fisheries management.

Data source: CRFS estimates and data were extracted from RecFIN database at www.recfin.org and supplemented by CDFW Fisheries Analytics Project and Ocean Salmon Project.

²Tuna (bluefin, yellowfin, and albacore) weight estimates are not available until official weight totals are provided to international management entities by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service. Preliminary estimate shown here is based on initial counts and average weights from CPFV sampling.

³Pacific Fishery Management Council uses numbers of Chinook salmon harvested for fishery management; numbers were converted to weight in pounds by the Ocean Salmon Project. Data as of 02/23/2026

California Recreational Fisheries Survey Sampling

Data Collected from: 79,168 angler trips and 20,000+ online effort survey responses

Estimated Recreational Fishing Trips in Marine Waters: 1.9 million

Estimated Total Fish Caught: 7.2 million

Measurements Collected from: 90,539 fish



Data Source: Department's Marine Region, California Recreational Fisheries Survey. Data as of 02/17/2026

Above: Barred sandbass (*Paralabrax nebulifer*). CDFW C. Makeyev. Below: yellowtail (*Seriola dorsalis*). CDFW A. Barlotti.



Recreational Licenses Issued and Fees Collected

License Type	Numbers Issued	Value
All Recreational Fishing Licenses ¹	2,257,003	\$82,726,377
Ocean Enhancement Validation ²	249,538	\$1,621,997
Spiny Lobster Report Card	34,150	\$392,725
Recreational Crab Trap Validation Stamps	38,053	\$104,646

¹Note that recreational fishing licenses are valid for ocean and inland fishing in California. Numbers include free fishing licenses provided without fees.

²Ocean Enhancement Validation stamps are required for ocean fishing south of Point Arguello, Santa Barbara County.

Data Source: Department's License and Revenue Branch, as of 12/31/2025. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Statistics>

Top Types of Fish Targeted by Recreational Anglers Based on Fishing Trips

Rank	Trip-Type and Top Species Targeted ¹	Estimated Number of Angler Trips
1	Bottomfish: Rockfish, lingcod, California scorpionfish and ocean whitefish	675,000
2	Inshore: California halibut, barred surfperch, spotfin croaker, and redbtail surfperch	300,000
3	Highly Migratory: Bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, albacore and dolphinfish (dorado)	254,000
4	Other Anadromous: Striped bass, white sturgeon	91,000
5	Coastal Migratory: Yellowtail, chub (Pacific) mackerel, Pacific barracuda and Pacific bonito	76,000

¹For each trip target: the top species are listed based on the estimated total catch in pounds. Data source: CRFS estimates and data were extracted from RecFIN database at www.recfin.org and supplemented by CDFW Fisheries Analytics Project and Ocean Salmon Project. Highly Migratory effort and catch from Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels were summed from the Marine Log System. Data as of 02/17/2026



Marine Region Highlights

Permitting

Experimental Fishing Permits (EFPs)

- Total active EFPs: 5
- Total EFP Amendments: 23

Marine Scientific Collecting Permits (SCPs)

- Total SCPs Issued: 181
- SCPs for work in MPAs: 64

Other Permits and Documents

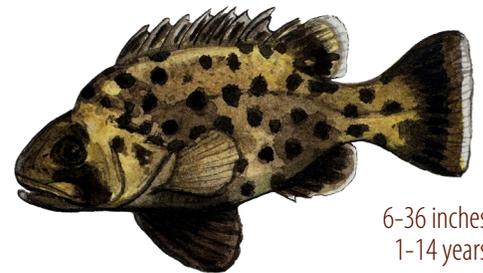
- Aquaculture Registrations: 43
- Importation Permits: 138
- Restricted Species Permits: 14
- Broodstock Collecting Permits: 3
- Letters of Authorization (LOAs): 10
- Private Stocking Permits: 2
- Sea Otter Game Refuge Flyover Request LOAs: 7
- CEQA Project Comment Letters: 29
- Environmental Documents Reviewed: 257

California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

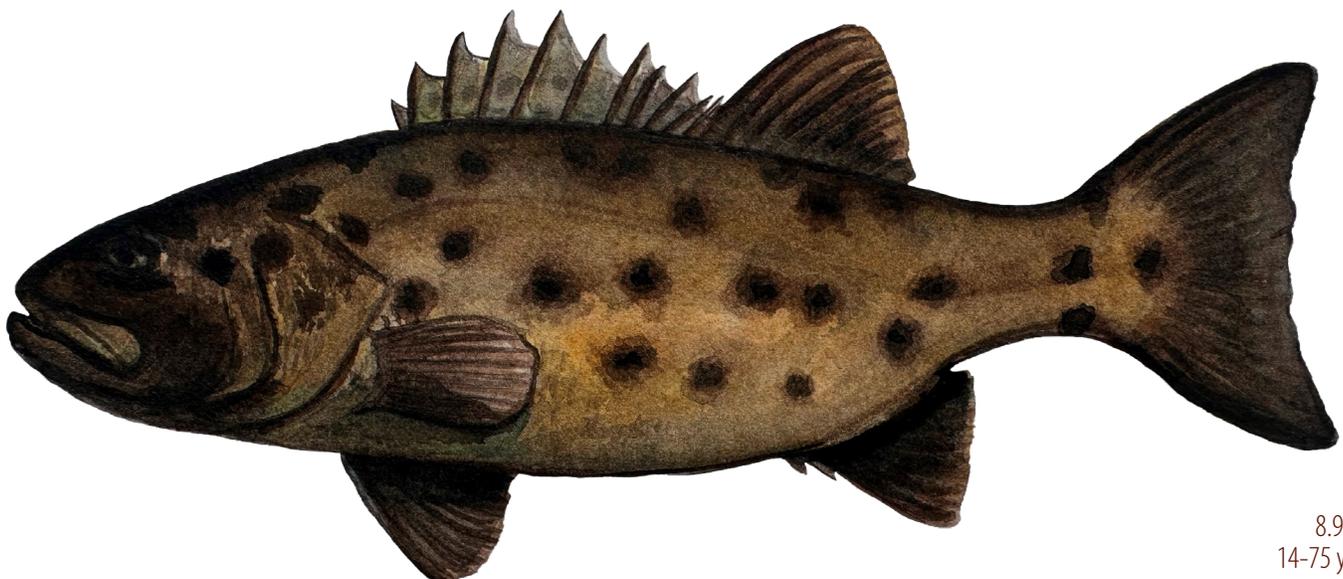
- CESA Incidental Take Permits: 6
- CESA 2081(a) MOUs issued to permit take of CESA-listed marine species for scientific, educational or management purposes: 43
- CESA 2081(a) MOU Amendments: 9



2-6 inches
1.5-6 months



6-36 inches
1-14 years



8.9 feet
14-75 years

Illustrations of juvenile and adult giant sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*). CDFW C. Makeyev.

Regulatory Activity

- Reports submitted in support of federal regulatory activities: **52**
- State regulatory packages completed: **16**
 - At the August 2025 California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) meeting, the FGC adopted the first ever amendment to a California fishery management plan (FMP), the Market Squid FMP, and approved regulations designed to increase the sustainability of the squid fishery.
 - Four regulatory packages, two recreational and two commercial, were completed based upon new science indicating the quillback rockfish population off of California is healthier than previously thought. This resulted in restoring commercial access to over **60** groundfish stocks and recreational access to more than **900** square miles of state waters along with most federal waters north of Pt. Conception.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

- Visits to [MPA StoryMap](#), the site for information on the 2023 MPA petitions: **8,000+**

Diving Safety Program

Total Dives: **857** Total Dive Hours: **519**

Marine Region Vessels

- R/V Garibaldi celebrated her **25th** anniversary with CDFW
- Total days at sea for all Marine Region Vessels: **167**

• Sandab	12 ft	• Surf Scoter	19 ft
• Emerita	14 ft	• Megathura	21 ft
• Nereocystis (Nereo)	14 ft	• Smoothhound	25 ft
• Remora	18 ft	• Irish Lord	26 ft
• Ronquil	19 ft	• Mystinus	29 ft
• Roncador	19 ft	• Garibaldi	45 ft
• Pinto	19 ft		

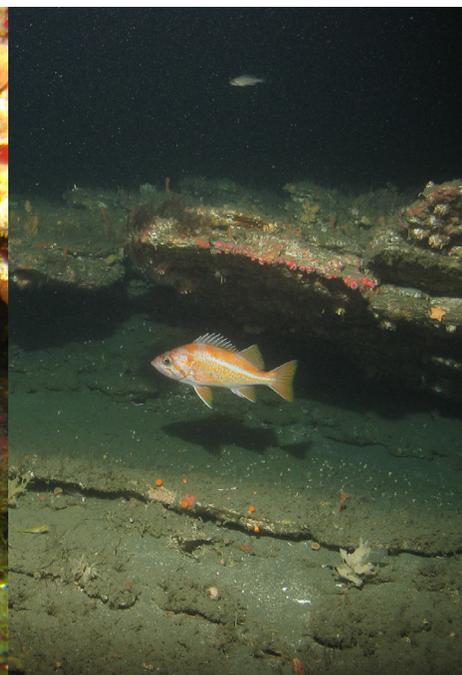
Research Vessel Garibaldi. CDFW T. Nguyen. CDFW research divers Colleen Young (above) and Carlos Mireles (below).



Data Collection

- Otoliths (fish ear bones) collected:
 - 23,798 sardines
 - 358 groundfish
 - 200 barred sand bass
- Otoliths and scales processed for age determination:
 - 4,616 salmon scales
 - 194 sardine otoliths
 - 75 barred sand bass otoliths
- Specimens collected for biological, genetic, or reproductive data:
 - 5,460 market squid
 - 2,979 sardine
 - 2,626 salmon heads (451 fin clips for parentage-based tagging)
 - 1,492 California halibut (1,105 Southern California, 387 Central California)
 - 1,425 white seabass for parentage-based tagging
 - 1,240 bull and giant kelp
 - 1,050 anchovy
 - 755 barred sand bass
 - 448 Pacific mackerel
 - 22 jack mackerel
- Pismo clam surveys counted 1,473 clammers and measured 558 clams
- Abalone outplanted for recovery:
 - 3,229 white abalone outplanted
 - 5,218 red abalone outplanted
- Kelp/marine algae research projects partnered on: 11
- Individual bull kelp tagged and monitored: 33
- California halibut trawl surveys for spring and fall: 9 sites, 161 trawls, and 661 halibut measured
- White seabass: 2,177 scanned and measured for coded-wire tags

CRFS sampler Victoria Johnson holding a Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). CDFW B. Doo. Red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*). CDFW D. Stein. Canary rockfish (*Sebastes pinniger*) in Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA). MARE.



Marine Region Information Sharing

General Outreach

- Marine Region Related Press Releases: **24**
- Social Media Posts: **48**
- Public Events Attended: **5**
- Responses to Public Inquiries Sent via email: **1,300+**

Marine Management News Blog

- Visitors to site: **59,000+**
- Blog posts published: **29**
- Blog post views: **126,900+**

Publications

- William B. Ludt, Michelle C. Horeczko, Todd R. Clardy, and Benjamin W. Frable. 2025. [Recent Beach Strandings of the Pacific Footballfish on the Pacific Coast of the United States](#). California Fish and Game Journal.
- Coates, J.H., Hicks, A., Valero, J., Meyer, K. 2025. [The Status of California Halibut in U.S. Waters off Southern California in 2023](#). California Department of Fish & Wildlife.
- Langseth, B.J., M.H. Monk, J.H. Coates. 2025. [Status of Quillback rockfish in U.S. waters off California in 2025](#). Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, OR.
- Tanaka, T.H., K. Ramey, S. Lescht-Smith, M. Patton, M. Warren, and P.N. Reilly. 2025. [Evaluation of the California halibut trawl grounds](#). California Fish and Wildlife Journal.
- Wong, R., Perkins, N., Monk, J., Prall, M., Lauermann, A., & Barrett, N. 2025. [Decadal changes in California's temperate mesophotic reef invertebrate community through the 2014-2016 Northeast Pacific marine heatwave](#). Marine Environmental Research, 107644.

Eelgrass (*Zostera* spp.) in Morro Bay State Marine Reserve. CDFW K. Ramey. CSUMB Kate Roetcisoender with cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*) on a California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program trip. CDFW B. Doo. Spot prawns (*Pandalus platyceros*) in Potuguese Ledge SMCA. MARE.

