

MONTHLY SQUID REPORT

April 2002



Monterey

The squid fishery remained active throughout the month. Large schools of high quality squid were found at Lopez Point during the first two weeks of April. Fishing then slowed at the Point, prompting vessels back to traditional grounds (Marina Beach, Cannery Row, Pacific Grove, and Rocky Point). By the end of April, a few vessels began to fish at locations between Davenport and Big Sur because of increased competition. This prompted some fishermen to seek congressional help regarding a landing and vessel number/tonnage cap for the Monterey squid fishery. The ex-vessel price ranged from \$240 - 250/ton. Kelp, squid egg cases, jellyfish, jacksmelt, Pacific butterfish, and sanddabs were observed as bycatch.

Ventura/Port Hueneme/Santa Barbara

There were only 13 landings for April, all occurred during the first week. Most vessels brought in small loads, which some fishermen blamed on sea lions for breaking up the squid aggregations. The squid quality was good, but fishing effort decreased as the month progressed. The ex-vessel price ranged from \$200 - 250/ton. Fishing occurred off Santa Rosa Island. Squid egg cases and pelagic red crabs were observed as bycatch.

San Pedro/Terminal Island

Squid landings decreased considerably, marking the end of the season. All landings occurred during the first two weeks of April, when many of the vessels traveled to San Clemente Island for small, mediocre quality squid. By the end of the second week, most vessels began targeting sardine and mackerel. The ex-vessel price was \$250/ton. Besides San Clemente Island, fishing also occurred off Santa Catalina Island and San Nicolas Island. Squid egg cases, sardine, anchovies, flatfish, and kelp were observed as bycatch.

Landings and Sampling Effort at the Monterey, Ventura/Port Hueneme, and San Pedro Port Areas for March*

Port Complex	Tons Landed		Samples Collected	
	2000/01**	2001/02***	2000/01	2001/02
Monterey	683	7,735	19	31
Ventura/Port Hueneme	3,057	302	26	6
San Pedro	292	400	6	7
	4,032	8,437	51	44

*Month covers April 1 – April 30.

**Landings data are from Dept. of Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries Information System (CFIS) database

***Landings data from preliminary totals based on dockside tally of available landing receipts.