

MONTHLY SQUID REPORT

April 2003



Monterey

The Monterey squid season began during the second week of April. Fishing activity occurred day and night off Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove, Seaside State Beach, and Cannery Row; however, very little squid was caught at night so most activity occurred during the day, with boats making many sets for very little squid. Competition between boats for prime positions caused tempers to flare among fisherman. Light and purse seine boats also conflicted regarding the role of light boats during day fishing. The ex-vessel price was \$500/ton. Pacific sardine, Pacific sauries, jacksmelt, anchovy, jellyfish, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, Pacific electric rays, squid egg cases, and turbot were observed as bycatch.

Ventura/Port Hueneme/Santa Barbara

The market squid fishery was sporadic this month because of poor weather conditions and limited availability of squid. By months end, only a few purse seine vessels continued to fish for squid. Many had either joined the Monterey squid fishery or were tied up at the dock. Fishing occurred off Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. The ex-vessel price ranged from \$450-500/ton. There was no observed bycatch.

San Pedro/Terminal Island

Squid fishing activity increased slightly this month, but landings were still small, averaging 6 tons per load. Only a few vessels continued to target squid around Santa Cruz and Santa Catalina Islands. Most vessels targeted wetfish locally; however, strong winds limited both squid and wetfish efforts throughout the month. Squid ranged in size from very small juveniles to large adults but were of good quality. Several local vessels moved to Ventura and Monterey to fish for squid. The ex-vessel price was \$500/ton. California scorpionfish, squid egg cases, kelp, eel grass, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, Pacific sardine, northern Anchovy, a blacksmith, a juvenile cabezon, hornyhead turbot, a longfin sanddab, Pacific sanddabs, salps, jellyfish, juvenile midshipmen, pithead sculpins, roughback sculpins, and sea stars were observed as bycatch.

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

Port Complex	Tons Landed		Samples Collected	
	2001/02**	2002/03***	2001/02	2002/03
Monterey	8,507 [†]	2,610	30	28
Ventura/Port Hueneme	258	479	6	12
San Pedro	401	119	7	10
	9,166	3,208	43	50

*Month covers April 1 - 30.

**Landings data 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.

[†]Includes landings from Halfmoon Bay.