

MONTHLY SQUID REPORT

MAY

Monterey

Landings were made throughout the month and samples were consistently taken. Fishing was mostly in a small area right outside the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The limited fishing space has sparked controversy in this fishery. Light boats were anchored all day over productive spots causing fishermen to accuse each other of stealing spots.

Landing data was often difficult to obtain from local processors.

Southern California

Vessels landing in Ventura Harbor and Port Hueneme fished off Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, Point Conception, and Gaviota. Vessels landing in San Pedro fished off Santa Catalina Island. Several vessels made daylight sets, in addition to sets in the dark. Captains claim fishing is tougher than previous months with some squid found in water too shallow to set and some squid was mixed with krill or wetfish. Also, fishermen report strong variations in water temperature, changing water currents, and less squid.

Landings for Southern California dropped from last month due to the weather. Moreover, many vessels left or plan on leaving for fisheries in Washington and Alaska. Vessels received between \$200 and \$300 per ton throughout the month. Once again, only three of five squid processors in Port Hueneme accepted squid this month (at two pump sites).

Weather in San Pedro and Ventura/Port Hueneme was mostly windy with one week of calm weather.

There was a lot of speculation over the new light shielding regulations. Most fishermen were confused because they had no specific construction plans to use or they questioned when and how Wildlife Protection would enforce the new regulations. The new light shielding and wattage regulations went into effect on May 31.

Monthly Landings and Sampling effort at the San Pedro and Ventura/Port Hueneme port areas May 2000 (April 30 - June 3)*

| Port Complex | Tons Landed | Number of Samples Collected |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Monterey** | 526 | 25 |
| Ventura / Port Hueneme | 2,142 | 21 |
| San Pedro*** | 197 | not reported |
| Totals | 2,865 | 21 |

* Monthly reports will cover the first week period (Sunday - Saturday) that begins in the reporting month, and will extend through the last week period of that month, possibly extending into the next month.

**Data for Monterey is from estimated tonnages of sampled landings for May 7 - 13 and from two weekly reports (May 14 - 20 and May 28 - June 3).

***Data for San Pedro is from three weekly reports we received this month (April 30 - May 6, 7- 13, and 14 - 20).