MONTHLY SQUID REPORT
May 2003

Monterey

Squid landings remained steady throughout the month but decreased from last month because of poor catches and increased competition between boats. Low squid volume caused many to leave for home ports, but fishermen were still concerned over the large number of boats fishing in the area. Because of conflicts and lack of squid, fishermen agreed to cease fishing every Wednesday through Friday noon. When the fleet did go out, fishing took place mostly during the day off Pacific Grove, Fort Ord, and on the southern bight of Monterey Bay from Marina Beach to Pt. Piños. Sea lions also continued to be a nuisance, covering harbor docks, boat launching areas, and following boats to fishing ground. Some fishermen said that they would fish at night, but the sea lions break up their sets. Because the demand for squid was high, the ex-vessel price remained at $500/ton even though squid size was small, about 16 per pound. Pacific sardine, sauries, jacksmelt, California halibut, butterfish, anchovy, jellyfish, curlfin turbots, kelp, and two salmon were observed as bycatch.

Ventura/Port Hueneme/Santa Barbara

No landings were reported this month. Poor weather and lack of squid kept most vessels docked during the month.

San Pedro/Terminal Island

There were only two landings this month. Fishing occurred at Santa Catalina Island. Most fishermen either targeted wetfish locally or remained docked to repair engines and nets. The ex-vessel price was $500-600/ton. Pacific sardine (live) was observed as bycatch in one of the landings. The other landing was not observed.

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

Port Complex	Tons Landed		Samples Collected	
	2002/03[**]	2003/04[***]	2002/03	2003/04
Monterey	6,647	1,812	29	13
Ventura/Port Hueneme	153	0	2	0
San Pedro	8	6	0	1
	6,808	1,818	31	14

*Month covers May 1 - 31.
**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.