

MONTHLY SQUID REPORT

DECEMBER

Vessels landing in San Pedro concentrated their fishing effort at Santa Cruz Island and Santa Catalina Island. Sets were also made at Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Pt. Mugu, Pt. Vicente and Santa Monica Bay. The majority of vessels landing in Ventura Harbor and Port Hueneme fished Santa Cruz Island and Santa Rosa Island. Vessels also landed squid from Santa Barbara Island and Anacapa Island.

One captain summed the feelings of many when he said 'there are too many squid, too many boats, and the current market is flooded'. To compound the situation, many processors have been complaining about the quality of squid. One pump in Port Hueneme shut down, and sent it's vessels south to fish the coastline around San Pedro. Our observations in the laboratory, and those of other fish processors do not indicate a significant increase in spawned out squid. The ex-vessel price in San Pedro ranged from \$200-250/ton. The ex-vessel price in Ventura/Port Hueneme remained at \$200/ton. Fishermen which bring in squid over the dealer set limit, often sell their squid for 1 cent/pound, or simply give it to the fish company. One fisherman reported that he was under pressure to bring in "free squid".

A lightboat sank inside San Pedro Harbor this week when their load shifted in the hold. The Coast Guard has ordered the captain to pay for the salvage operation. Police responded to two altercations between members of the squid fishery this month. The first relatively benign incident involved a price dispute between a San Pedro weighmaster and a fisherman. Cool heads prevailed and the cargo was unloaded without further incident. The opposite was true when a territorial dispute sparked gunfire between two lightboats. Police arrested two skippers.

Water quality in Port Hueneme improved greatly this month. Three of five pumps in the harbor now have tanks to hold squid waste water. The other two pumps have elected to return the waste water to the boats during the unloading process.

Monthly Landings and Sampling effort at the San Pedro and Ventura/Port Hueneme port areas December 1999 (Dec 5 - Jan 1)*

San Pedro		Ventura/Port Hueneme		Total
Tons landed	7,812	Tons landed	8,351	16,163
Ave Tons/week	1,953	Ave Tons/week	2,087	4,040
# of samples	26	# of samples	27	53

* 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.