

California Department of Fish and Game State Finfish Management Project

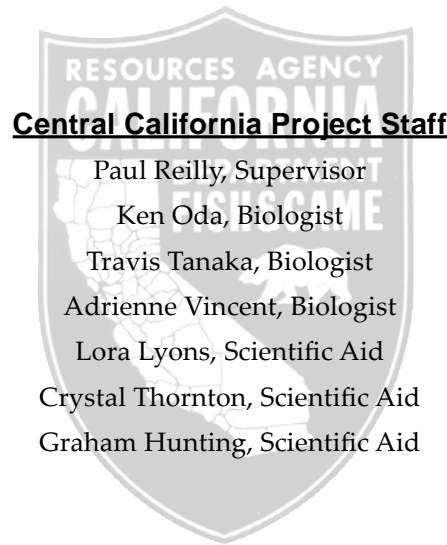
Created in June 2006, the project's primary goal is to fill in the data gaps for some of California's most important nearshore finfish species, including the surfperches fished from sandy beaches. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) employs seven biologists on this project who work diligently to ensure that our nearshore finfish species are sustainably managed for future generations to enjoy throughout California.

Beach Survey Design

Two types of surveys are used to determine the rate and type of catch and to document fishing effort. During an *On-Site Survey* biologists interview fishermen who have finished fishing and ask to weigh and measure the catch. During a *Progressive Angler Survey* biologists count how many people are fishing at a particular moment in time at all sandy beaches within a county. Using these two surveys, biologists get a better understanding of both the catch and effort for fishes that live in sandy beach surf zones. From April 2007 through March 2008 DFG completed a 12-month survey in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. In June 2008 DFG resumed the Monterey County survey and in October 2008 DFG will begin a survey in San Mateo County.

To view or download an identification guide to the common surfperches of California, visit the DFG Web site at:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/surfperchid.pdf



Central California Project Staff

Paul Reilly, Supervisor

Ken Oda, Biologist

Travis Tanaka, Biologist

Adrienne Vincent, Biologist

Lora Lyons, Scientific Aid

Crystal Thornton, Scientific Aid

Graham Hunting, Scientific Aid

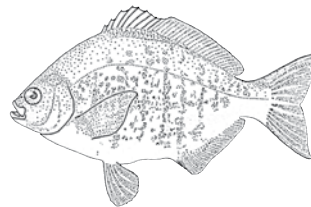
For More Information, Contact:

Ken Oda

Associate Biologist
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr.
Suite 100
Monterey CA
(831) 649-2884
koda@dfg.ca.gov

Adrienne Vincent

Biologist
350 Harbor Blvd.
Belmont, CA 94002
(650) 631-2534
avincent@dfg.ca.gov



Calico surfperch, *Amphistichus koelzi*
illustration by D. Miller and R. N. Lea

Help Fish and Game Wardens
Put an End to Poaching

If you witness poaching
or polluting, call

1-888-DFG-CALTIP

(1-888-334-2258)



Alternate communication formats of this document are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, call DFG at (916) 322-8911. The California Relay Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired can be utilized from TDD phones at (800) 735-2929.
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California Department of Fish
and Game

State Finfish Management Project



K. Oda

SURVEY RESULTS

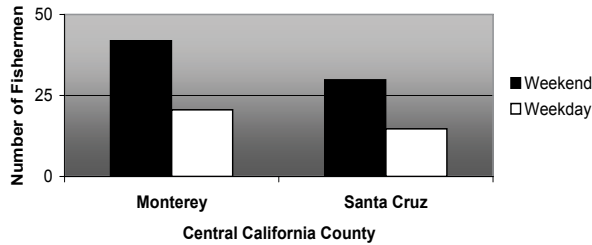
Sandy Beach Anglers

Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties

April 2007 - March 2008

Survey Results

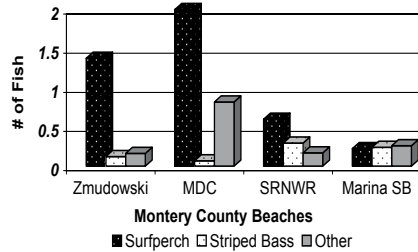
Average Number of Fishermen Observed during Progressive Angler Surveys



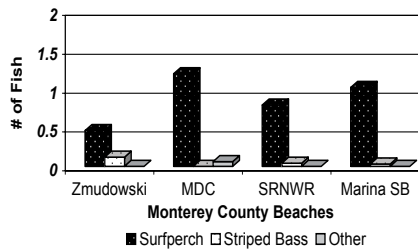
In both Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, fishing effort was twice as high on the weekends as during the week. About 30% more fishermen were observed in Monterey County than in Santa Cruz County during the week.

Monterey County Results

Average Number of Fish Caught per Angler Fishing Trip, Apr.- Oct 2007



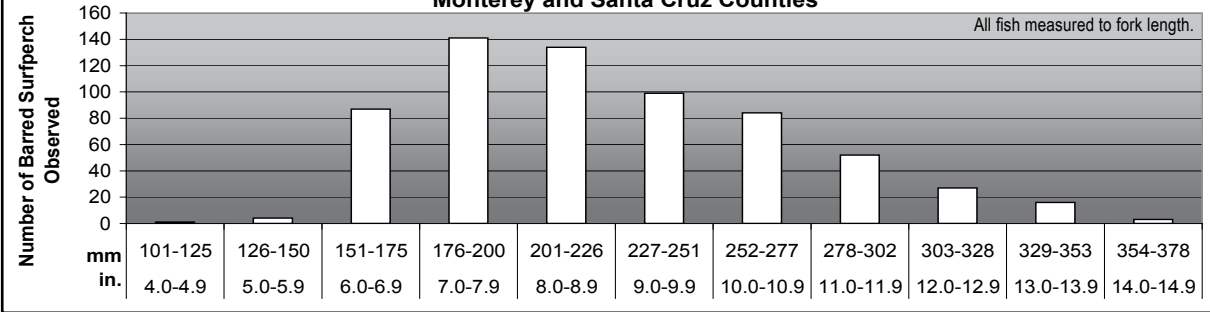
Average Number of Fish Caught per Angler Fishing Trip, Nov. '07- Mar. '08



MDC: Monterey Dunes Colony
SRNWR: Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge



Frequency of Barred Surfperch by Size of Kept Fish in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties



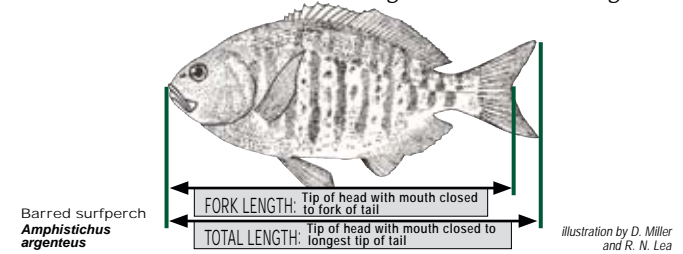
What's the catch?

The fish specie caught most frequently was barred surfperch, although many fishermen were trying to catch striped bass. Most fishermen kept barred surfperch that measured longer than 7 in. The longest barred surfperch observed was close to 15 in. fork length. In Monterey County striped bass fishing picked up in summer 2007, especially at Zmudowski State Beach and Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge beach (SRNWR). Surfperch fishermen did well at Monterey Dunes Colony and Marina State Beach in Monterey County. In Santa Cruz County, Palm and Sunset state beaches were hot spots for surfperch fishermen, and the best striped bass fishing was observed at Sunset and Manresa state beaches. A variety of species were caught at New Brighton State Beach including leopard shark, thornback, white croaker, California halibut, and jacksmelt. Jacksmelt were caught from Marina State Beach to Monterey Dunes Colony in the early summer months. Other surfperch species caught included walleye, calico, silver, striped, shiner, and redbtail. Fishermen used artificial lures, flies, and sandcrabs for bait. DFG thanks all of the anglers who participated in our beach surveys!

2008 Beach Fishing Regulations Reminder for Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties

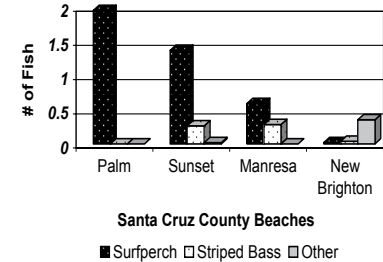
The daily bag limit for combined finfish species is no more than 20 fish per day with up to 10 of any one species. Shiner perch have a separate daily bag limit of 20 fish. California halibut minimum length is 22 in. total length with a bag limit of 3 fish. Redtail surfperch must be 10½ in. total length. Striped bass must be 18 in. total length with a bag limit of 2 fish. The daily bag limit for sandcrabs is 50 crabs.

How To Measure Fork Length and Total Length



Santa Cruz County Results

Average Number of Fish Caught per Angler Fishing Trip, Apr.- Oct. 2007



Average Number of Fish Caught per Angler Fishing Trip, Nov. '07- Mar. '08

