

## Introduction

The Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) changed the way the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) approached management of the State's marine resources. The goal of the act, which became law on January 1, 1999, was to ensure that the marine resources of the State, and the habitats upon which they depend, are used in a sustainable fashion and conserved. When species have been depleted or habitats degraded, restoration is the management goal. The Department is expected to use the best available science to guide management efforts.

Acknowledging that the Department's resources are limited, the Act also prescribed a collaborative and public involvement approach to management. This approach includes all interest groups that have a stake in the State's marine resources, users and non-users alike.

The MLMA also required the Department to prepare regular reports on the status of recreational and commercial marine fisheries managed by the State. In 2001, *California's Living Marine Resources: A Status Report* was published.

The comprehensive 2001 document provides baseline information and references on all of California's economically and ecologically important marine species. In 2004, an *Annual Status of the Fisheries Report Through 2003* was completed by the Department and updated information was provided on 14 species or species groups. In 2008, the *Status of the Fisheries Report-An Update Through 2006* was completed providing updated information on 15 species. In 2010, the *Status of the Fisheries Report-An Update through 2008* was completed providing information for 23 species or species groups. This report continues the series, with updates on 20 species or species groups, focusing on new species of interest (garibaldi, white shark, longnose skate), species with new information (California halibut, California sheephead, California spiny lobster, Dungeness crab, petrale sole, salmon), as well as new sections on algal blooms and the federal groundfish trawl individual quota program. This continuing series of reports allows those who are interested in or participants in California's marine management, to have a common and updated source of information about important marine resources. All of the mentioned reports can be found on the Department's website at: <http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/marine/status/index.asp>.

Several key sources of information were used in writing these species reviews. Fishery dependent data (information collected from fishermen or fishing activities) include:

- **Commercial Fisheries Information System (CFIS)** – Every time a commercial fisherman lands his/her catch, a landing receipt is filled out documenting the market category, poundage, gear, price paid to the fisherman, and other relevant information (FGC §8043). Market categories may be single species (Pacific bonito, sablefish) or groups of species (unidentified skate, group deep nearshore rockfish). Landing receipts have been collected since 1916 to the present.

- **Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)** – This national survey provided estimates of the fish caught recreationally in California through interviews with anglers, creel surveys (examination of anglers' catches), and observations onboard commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFVs). This program began in 1980, with a brief hiatus from 1990 through 1992. Northern California party/charter boat sampling was temporarily reduced from 1993 through 1995. The MRFSS program was terminated in California on December 31, 2003.
- **California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS)** – This statewide survey began on January 1, 2004. The CRFS uses interviews with anglers, creel surveys, and observations onboard CPFVs to collect data on California's marine recreational fisheries, and estimates the catch and effort of anglers fishing for marine finfish. Beach/bank (BB) mode sampling was temporarily reduced in 2010 and BB and man made modes were reduced in 2011. Due to differences in sampling methodology MRFSS and CRFS are not directly comparable.
- **Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) logbooks** – Every CPFV captain is required to submit a log for each fishing trip which documents the number of anglers aboard, and the species and numbers and type of fish caught and released (FGC §7923; Title 14, CCR, §190). Species may be individual (Pacific bonito, cabezon) or groups of species (unspecified rockfish, unspecified sturgeon). This program began in 1936; data for 1941-1946 are not available.

Whenever available, fishery independent data (information that is not collected from fishermen or fishing activities) was also used in the species reviews. This information is primarily research data collected by the Department, other management agencies or academics using research methodology and technology.