



CCFRP

Volunteer Newsletter 2025

A Summary of the 2024 Sampling Season



Greetings CCFRP Volunteer Anglers!

With your help, Cal Poly CCFRP has completed the 2024 sampling season; this was our 18th season of data collection inside and outside of marine protected areas (MPAs) on the central California coast! This season, we complete 12 trips, fishing for a total of 344 person hours. In that time, we caught a total of 2,270 fishes comprised of 22 species; approximately 6.5 fishes per angler hour. Thank you for participating in this stellar season – we couldn't have done it without you!

Angler Workshop 2025 Information

To celebrate all the hard work you did this season, we would like to invite you to our annual volunteer angler appreciation event and data workshop! All past, present, and future volunteer anglers are welcome! We will be discussing the data we collected in 2024 as well as updating you on continuing project and introducing some new projects that are in the works. We would appreciate your attendance very much.

**Cal Poly Research Pier
Avila Beach, CA
Saturday, April 26, 2025, 11 am – 2 pm**

Please check your E-mail for more details about this appreciation event and data workshop. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to link in Erin's E-mail which will come from the address ccfrpslo@gmail.com so that we can plan accordingly. Lunch will be provided. Stay tune for more updates on this event through email and by liking CCFRP on Facebook – we look forward to seeing you there!



CAL POLY
Center for Coastal
Marine Sciences



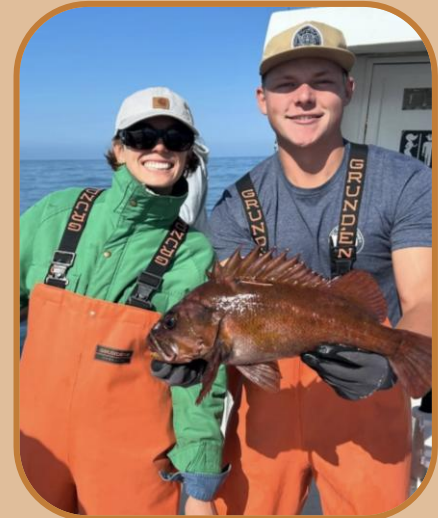
Join Us for the 2025 Sampling Season

Every successful CCFRP sampling season is dependent on the efforts of our wonderful anglers! Be sure to keep an eye on your email for details about the upcoming 2025 CCFRP season, including the 2025 sampling schedule. Once the schedule is released, be sure to respond to the email promptly with your availability to secure your fishing spots! We are working on getting those dates to you as soon as possible. See you all soon!

Tag Recaptures 2024



Left: Jeff B. with a Vermilion Rockfish that had been at liberty for almost three years! The fish was tagged and recaptured within the Point Buchon MPA.



Right: Nat N. with a Copper Rockfish that had been at liberty for a little less than one year. This fish was tagged and recaptured within the Piedras Blancas MPA.



Tag recaptures are an exciting part of our program! This is one valuable way for us to learn about the movement and growth rate of fishes that are caught and released on our sampling trips. We rely on the fishing community for this important source of information. Information from a tagged fish is worth \$20 and is priceless information for fisheries science! If you catch a tagged fish, please record the species, length, depth and coordinates, then contact: seagrant@mlml.edu

CCFRP Science Crew Updates

What a year it has been for our science crew! **Isaac Choy** graduated Fall 2024 and lives in Seattle where he is working and spending lots of time fishing and skiing in true PNW fashion. **Elsa Simenstad**, **Helen Lee**, **Gillian Douglas**, and **Eli Newman** are all graduating this spring! **Elsa** and **Helen** are analyzing stomach contents of Blue and Olive rockfish as part of their senior project and will be presenting their data at the Angler meeting in April. **Gillian** is finishing up a research project on Pacific oysters' performance as a farmed species on the California coast, and **Eli** is gearing up for some hiking and backpacking adventures including a trip on the John Muir trail. **Forrest Powell** graduated Spring 2024 and uses his fisheries knowledge with his job with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a CRFS sampler. **Adam Poleman** is in his 3rd year at Cal Poly as an Environmental, Earth and Soil Science major and is pursuing his interest in fluvial geomorphology. **Sasha Evans** is finishing up her 3rd year at Cal poly as a Marine Science major and just started working as a Cal Poly Pier Technician, keeping the research flowing! **Kaila Fritch** is finishing up her master's degree on rockfish habitat associations using CCFRP data and will give you an update on her work at the Angler meeting. **Erin Johnston** continues her work as the CCFRP Statewide Coordinator as well as the CCFRP SLO lead technician.

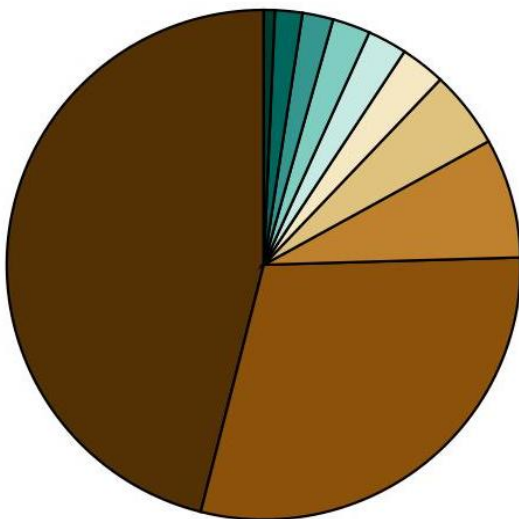


Dr. Benjamin Ruttenberg is one of our splendid Cal Poly CCFRP PIs. Ben runs the Marine Conservation Lab at Cal Poly and is the director of the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences. We are so lucky to have him as one of our PIs!



Dr. Dean Wendt, our superb and stellar Cal Poly CCFRP PI, continues to run not only our collaborative fisheries ecology research program, but the entire Bailey College of Science and Mathematics for Cal Poly. He continues to amaze us all with his excellent fashion sense and active schedule. We are always excited when Dean is around!

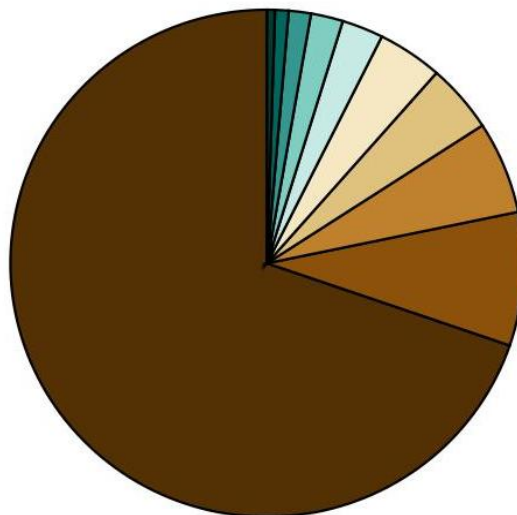
Cal Poly All Time Species Composition



Species



Cal Poly 2024 Species Composition



Species



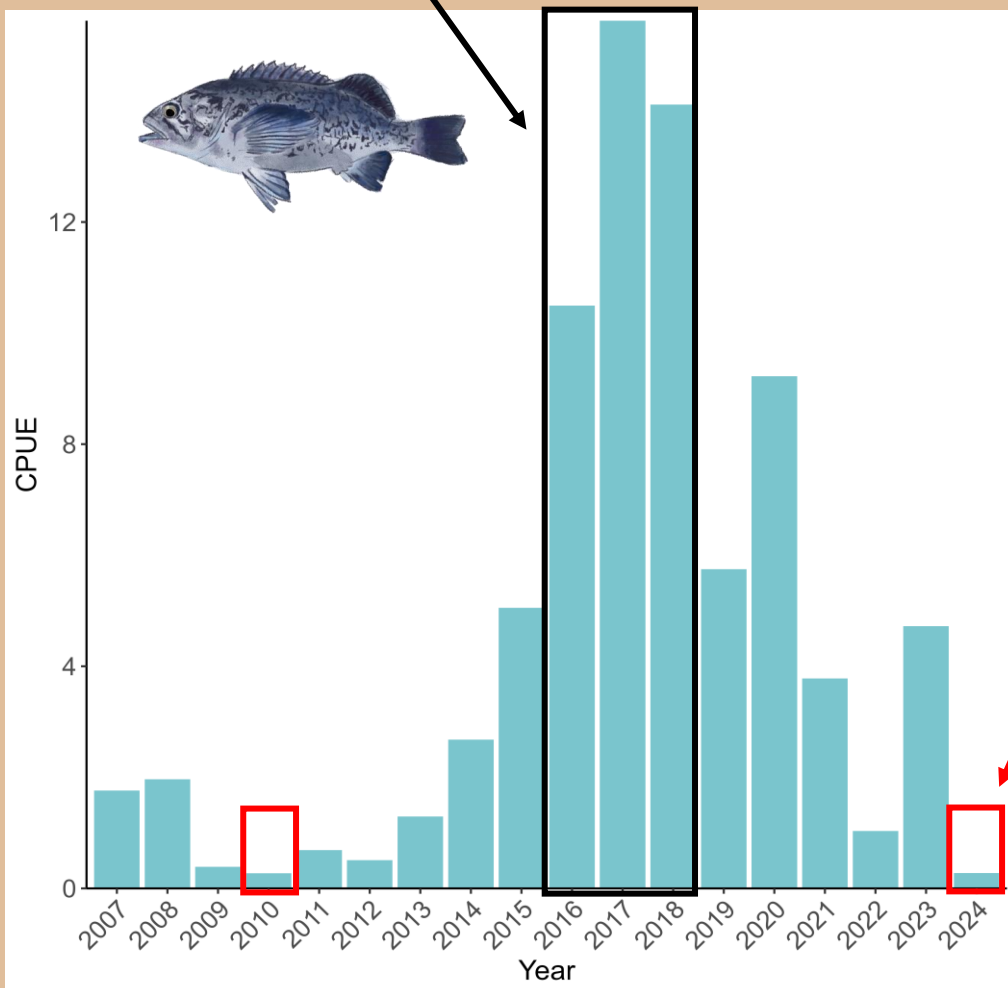
These pie charts show Cal Poly's CCFRP species composition for all time (top) and the 2024 sampling season (bottom). The 2024 sampling season brought a total of 2,270 fish caught with Gopher Rockfish (1,549) being the most frequently caught species. In total, Gopher Rockfish consisted of 69.7% of the catch in 2024. Unexpectedly, the number of Blue Rockfish (94) caught this season was much lower than previous years. The crowd favorites of Vermilion (131 caught), Copper (58), Lingcod (45) came in third, sixth, and seventh place, respectively.

**Note: Only the top ten species are shown for both pie charts. 22 different species of fish were caught in 2024, and 55 unique species have been caught over time at Cal Poly SLO.

Where did the Blues go?



Cal Poly's CPUE (catch per angler hour) for Blue Rockfish was highest between 2016 and 2018 and has been lower since.



This season, Cal Poly's CPUE for Blue Rockfish was tied with 2010 for the lowest Blue Rockfish CPUE of all time (0.27 Blue Rockfish per angler hour). Why do you think this is? Come to the angler meeting ready to discuss!

Largest and Smallest Catches from 2024



Blue Rockfish

Minimum: 114 mm (4.49 in)
Maximum: 392 mm (15.43 in)



Copper Rockfish

Minimum: 206 mm (8.11 in)
Maximum: 534 mm (21.02 in)



Gopher Rockfish

Minimum: 163 mm (6.42 in)
Maximum: 279 mm (10.98 in)



Kelp Rockfish

Minimum: 218 mm (8.58 in)
Maximum: 369 mm (14.53 in)



Lingcod

Minimum: 404 mm (15.91 in)
Maximum: 757 mm (29.80 in)



Olive Rockfish

Minimum: 220 mm (8.66 in)
Maximum: 490 mm (19.29 in)



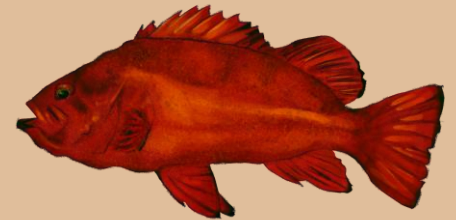
Rosy Rockfish

Minimum: 173 mm (6.81 in)
Maximum: 253 mm (9.96 in)



Treefish

Minimum: 289 mm (11.38 in)
Maximum: 363 mm (14.29 in)



Vermilion Rockfish

Minimum: 241 mm (9.49 in)
Maximum: 518 mm (20.39 in)



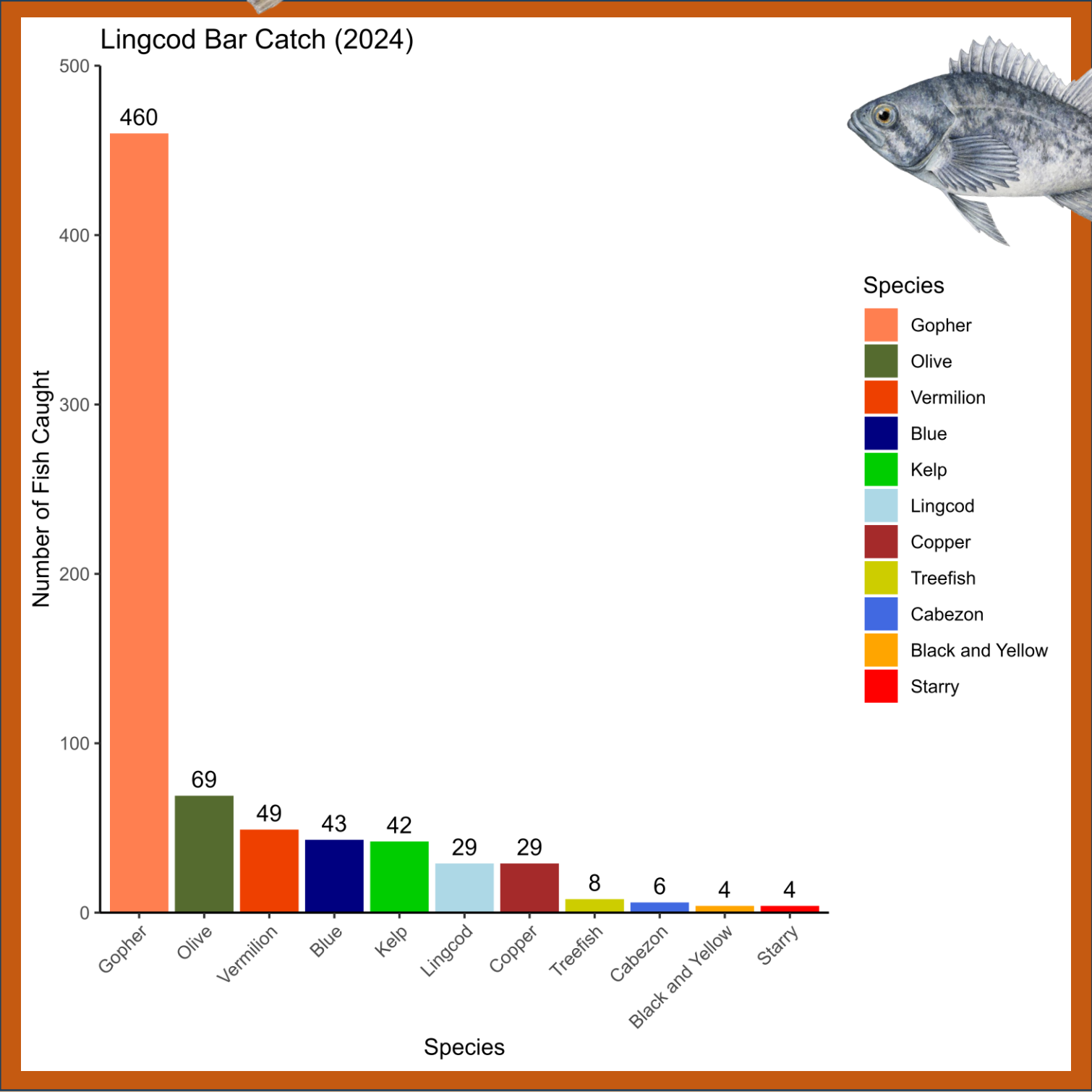
Yellowtail Rockfish

Minimum: 261 mm (10.28 in)
Maximum: 276 mm (10.87 in)



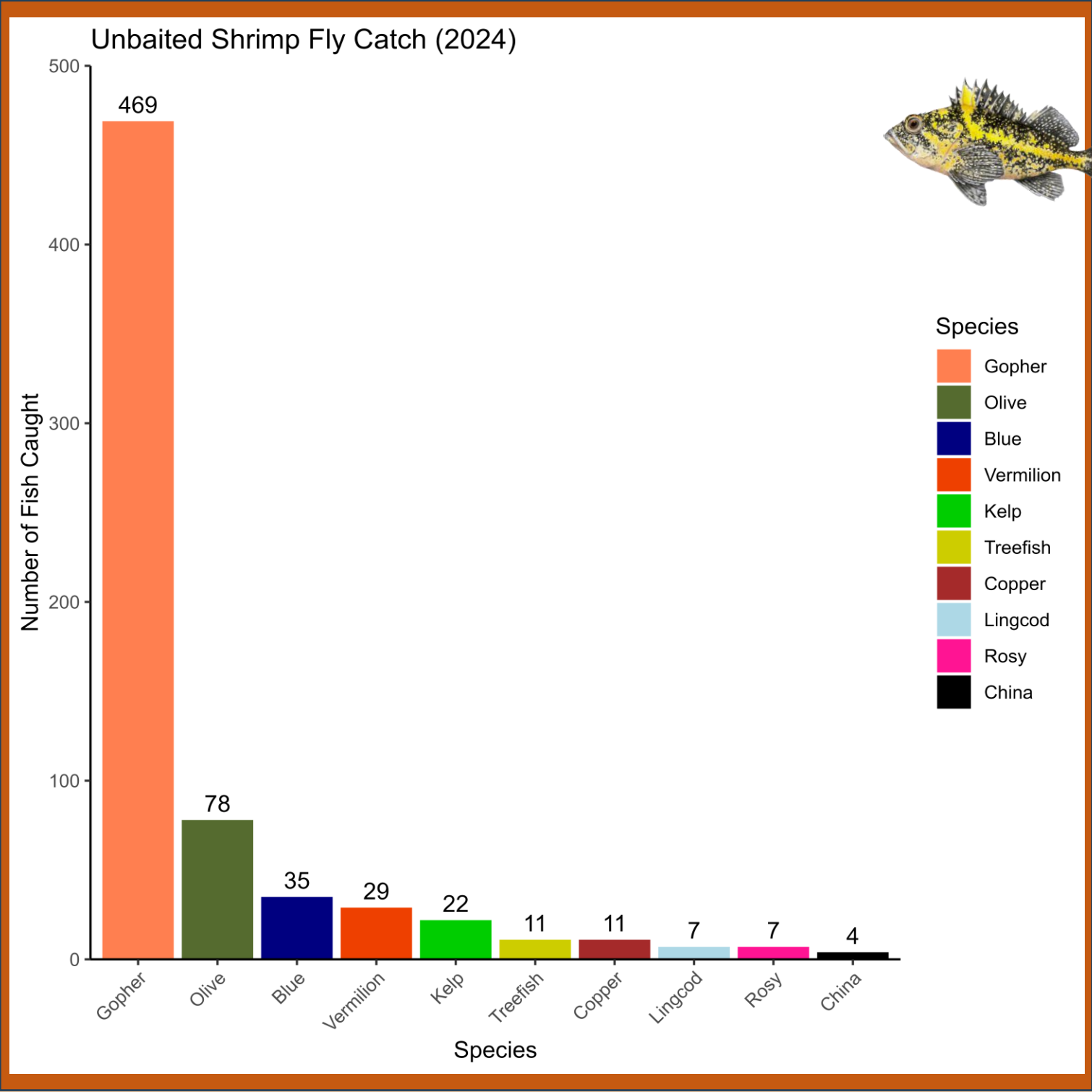


2024'S LINGCOD BAR CATCH DATA





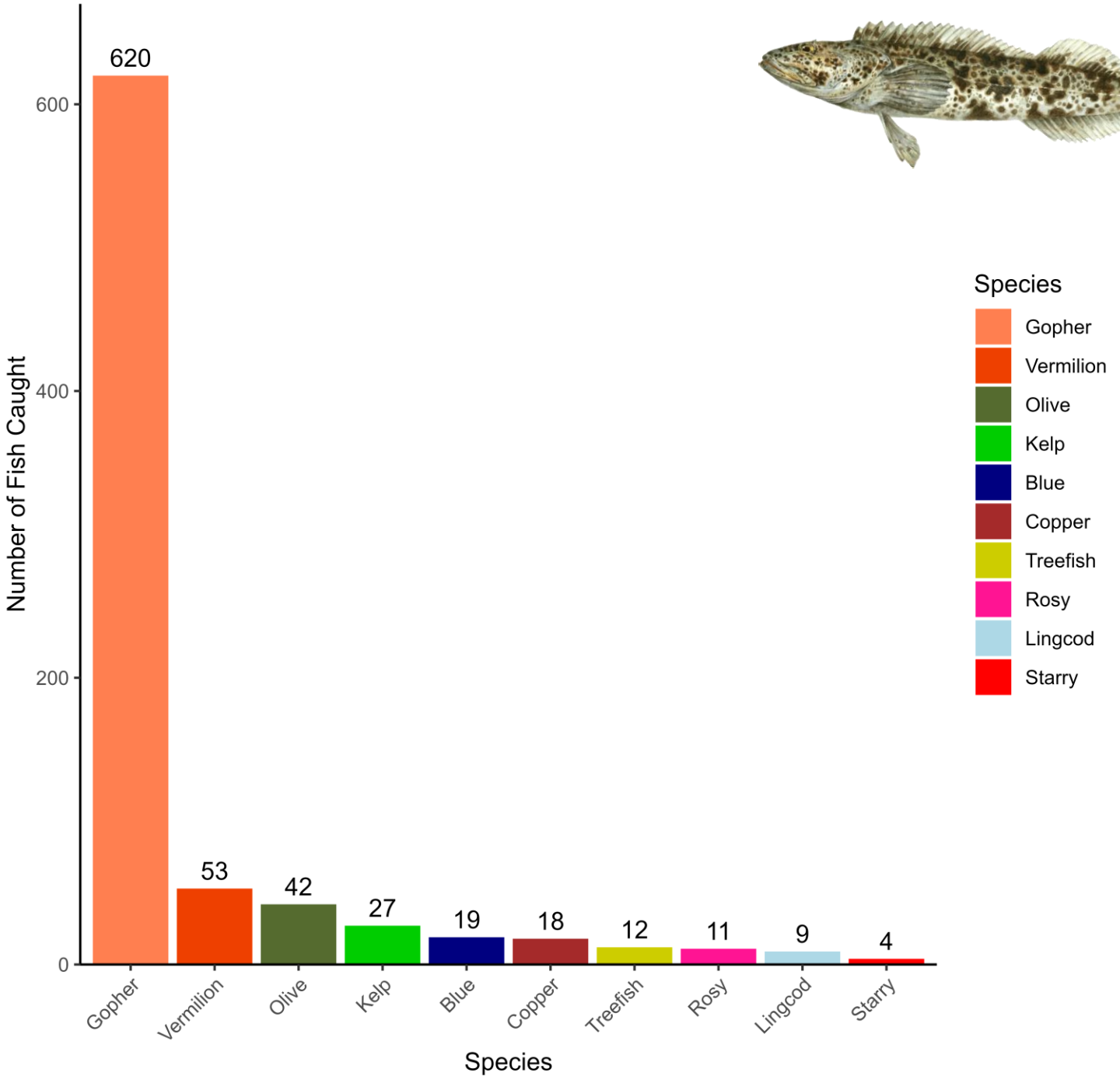
2024'S UNBAITED SHRIMP FLY CATCH DATA





2024'S BAITED SHRIMP FLY CATCH DATA

Baited Shrimp Fly Catch (2024)





2024 CCFRP Sampling Season

