

California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program

Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Volunteer Newsletter

A Summary of the 2023 Sampling Season

CCFRP Volunteers,

Another successful year of CCFRP is in the books! This year represented our seventh CCFRP sampling season in San Diego, and could not have been accomplished without the overwhelming support we received from the San Diego fishing community. Thank you for your continued participation and enthusiasm for our program. We were able to complete all 12 sampling trips this year, where we conducted standardized hook-and-line surveys inside MPAs and throughout nearby reference sites off San Diego County. Over the course of the summer, we were joined by 94 anglers who spent 554 hours catching and releasing fish as part of our surveys. Our anglers caught a total of 1580 fishes (712 of these were tagged) representing 34 species. We also welcomed 45 new volunteers this year! We'd like to share some highlights from this past season, and keep you up to date on all things CCFRP!



Know someone interested in fishing with us in 2024?

Contact us at catchreporter@gmail.com for more information and to volunteer.



Meet Our CCFRP Team!

Jack Elstner

Jack is a PhD student at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the lead tech for the San Diego sector of CCFRP. Originally from Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, Jack is interested in the conservation and management of critical fisheries habitats in a changing ocean. Using CCFRP data, he is working to develop novel methods of MPA assessment that allow for improved evaluation and adaptive management of California marine reserves. Through his science, Jack is also committed to fostering relationships and building trust among fisheries scientists, marine resource managers, and local fishing communities.



Connor Coscino

Connor Coscino was a CCFRP technician and lead field scientist from 2019-2023 during his tenure as an undergraduate and graduate student at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. His master's research, a length-based assessment of California's recreational fisheries, is soon to be published in an academic journal. He is currently an environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and hopes to further his education in quantitative fisheries management by pursuing a doctoral degree.

Kamran Walsh

Kam is a PhD student at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology (SMST), and formerly attended the Scripps Institution of Oceanography as an undergraduate and Master's student. He participated in CCFRP research throughout his time at SIO, starting as a volunteer during the COVID-19 pandemic and eventually becoming a field technician until his move to the east coast. He is a lifelong avid fisherman and has a strong interest in recreational fisheries management, with his current research centered around developing ways to promote sustainability while maintaining equitable fishing access for coastal communities.



Meet Our CCFRP Team!

Jordan Dinardo

Jordan served as the data recorder on numerous CCFRP trips ensuring accurate recording of catch and effort data. Jordan recently completed her PhD at Scripps Institution of Oceanography focused on leveraging quantitative techniques to foster holistic approaches to support sustainable fisheries. Through her interdisciplinary approach, Jordan's PhD research helps to inform fisheries management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna and Caribbean Parrotfishes as well as education and outreach efforts to improve U.S. consumer understanding of seafood ecolabels. Jordan currently serves as the Senior Fisheries Analyst at MarFishEco Sustainable Fisheries Consultants where she works with international stakeholders on applied research projects focused on improving the sustainability of our fisheries globally.



Chloe Urofsky

This year, Chloe was our volunteer coordinator and one of the research field techs. She has been using her position with CCFRP for her senior internship project where she is exploring the impact of Marine Protected Areas on fishery stocks. As a fourth year undergraduate, she is excited to graduate and get into the field. She is double majoring in Marine Biology and Environmental Policy and hopes to work in the field of conservation and sustainability to find ways to keep the planet and all of its inhabitants healthy!

Shawn Doyle

Shawn became an undergraduate field technician for CCFRP in 2023 where he helped prepare gear for all of our trips, process eDNA samples, tag, measure and descend local fish species, along with dissections for otolith collection. He is currently a third year Marine Biology major at UCSD and is looking to continue my education into graduate school and pursue a career in Marine Genetics.



Meet Our CCFRP Team!



Ashlynn Calabrese

Ashlynn worked as a field technician for CCFRP this season as well as the onboard photographer. She is a third year Marine Biology major here at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Although these are two different paths, in the future she is looking to either teach and help guide future generations in the world of biology or get involved in animal caretaking and wildlife conservation.

Gaelila Mckaughan

Gaelila is a junior at UCSD in Environmental Systems (Ecology, Behavior, and Evolutionary Biology), and she volunteered for CCFRP last summer for the Jane-Teranes Scripps Undergraduate Research Fellowship (JT-SURF) where she conducted research on San Diego fish species. She loved learning from the scientists and anglers on the boat about local fish and conservation methods.



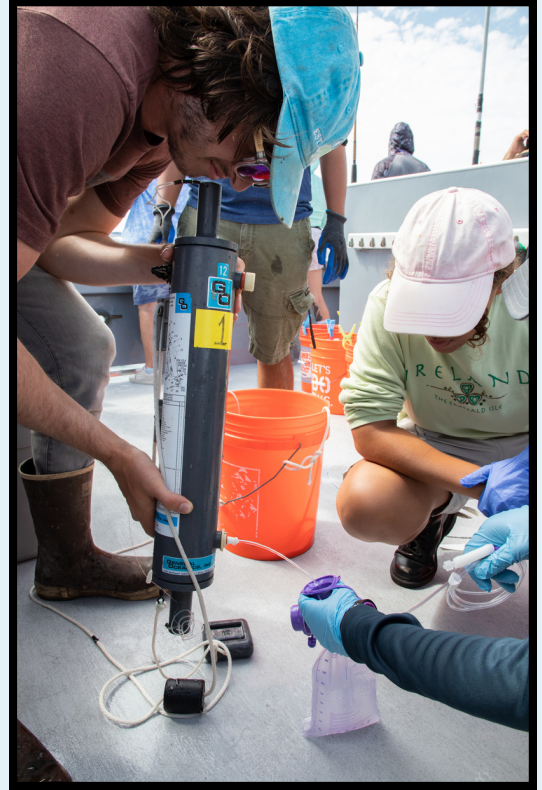
Cai Rahman

Cai has been a part of CCFRP as a field technician for 2 seasons. He has aided in multiple facets of this program's research efforts, including identifying, tagging, and releasing species of interest, as well as transferring data from paper data sheets into a digital database. Unfortunately, 2023 was his last season with CCFRP as he graduated from UCSD, and he would like to thank his fellow field techs and volunteer anglers for making the experience so enjoyable.

Some new initiatives!

eDNA

In addition to our hook-and-line surveys, this year we also launched a new eDNA monitoring project! eDNA, or Environmental DNA, is a new technique increasingly used to collect valuable fisheries data. In aquatic environments, fish and other organisms shed genetic material that becomes suspended in the water column. Through careful collection and analysis of water samples, we can use DNA signatures in the water to estimate the presence of fish species not targeted by our hook-and-line surveys! We believe that through pairing traditional CCFRP methods with new eDNA approaches, we will be able to better evaluate the performance of intended MPA ecosystem benefits.



NMFS Sampling Program

This year, the CCFRP crew at SIO also began participating in a new cooperative fisheries sampling program directed by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This program strives to leverage relationships with local fishing communities to increase collection of biological data for use in life history evaluations and fisheries stock assessments. Our team kept a small portion of the fish we caught this summer for biological dissections, which provided information concerning the age and sex of the fish we caught.



Biggest Fishes Caught in 2023

Below are the top largest fishes caught last season.

Total lengths are listed along with angler, gear type, area, and site (MPA/REF)

California Halibut **110 cm (43.3 in)**

Joseph Cobb, Swami's MPA
Swimbait

Pacific Barracuda **62.1 cm (24.4 in)**

William Bowen, South La Jolla MPA
Dropper Loop

Lingcod **60 cm (23.6 in)**

Joseph Cobb, South La Jolla REF
Swimbait

Pacific Barracuda **58.2 cm (22.9 in)**

David Blackston, Swami's REF
Swimbait

California Sheephead **51.3 cm (20.2 in)**

Jon Dohner, Swami's MPA
Swimbait

Kelp Bass **49.5 cm (19.5 in)**

Jon Dohner, Swami's MPA
Swimbait

Pacific Barracuda **47.6 cm (18.7 in)**

Ryan Lucina, Swami's REF
Swimbait



Special Shoutout for the Smallest Caught Fish of the Season!

Honeycomb Rockfish **10.4 cm (4.1 in)**

Malissa Saia, South La Jolla MPA
Dropper Loop

2023 Summary Data

Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (Fish/Anger Hour)

Area	2022 CPUE	2023 CPUE	Most Frequently Caught Species
South La Jolla MPA	2.54	3.00	Honeycomb Rockfish, Ocean Whitefish, Gopher Rockfish
South La Jolla REF	2.40	2.56	Honeycomb Rockfish, Ocean Whitefish, Vermilion Rockfish
Swami's MPA	3.36	3.38	Ocean Whitefish, Kelp Bass, Longfin Sanddab
Swami's REF	1.03	1.64	Longfin Sanddab, Ocean Whitefish, Pacific Mackerel

Species Spotlight: Treefish (*Sebastes serriceps*)



Etymology and Colloquial Names:

Sebastes is derived from the Greek word Sebastos which translates to “august” or “venerable”, an ancient term used to describe great leaders.

serriceps conjoins *serri* which means “serrated” and *ceps* which means head

Geographic Range:

Coastal distribution ranges from San Francisco, California down to Isla Cedros, Baja California

Size Range:

Individuals can grow up to 16 inches (41 cm).

Treefish are easily distinguished by their bright red lips, green-yellowish color, and exactly 6 black vertical lines on their body. This species is considered to be demersal meaning that they live close to the ocean floor and are often found in rocky bottom areas and kelp forests. The depth range of this species is quite expansive from 5 meters to 90 meters (16 to 295 feet). The females release their larvae between March and July, and the juveniles take shelter under kelp mats at the surface. They take their place in the benthos a few months later as adults and can live up to 25 years!

CCFRP Treefish Stats	2023
Caught and Released	35
Tagged	33
Recaptured	1
Max Length (inches)	13

2023 Tag Returns

Tag returns are an exciting part of our program and one way that we learn about the movements and growth rates of the fish we catch and release on our surveys

Anglers reported catching **17** of our tagged fish last year!

Species	Total	Max Days at Liberty	Max Distance Traveled (mi)
Ocean Whitefish	5	225	1.16
California Scorpionfish	3	227	0.89
Brown Rockfish	3	77	1.00
Kelp Bass	3	70	1.74
Treefish	1	355	0.67
Honeycomb Rockfish	1	362	0.02
Copper Rockfish	1	121	0.81

On your next fishing outing, be on the lookout for our tags -- they are white and about 2 inches long, typically inserted on the left side of the fish. One side of the tag has our phone number, the other has the Tag ID number. If the tags have been out for some time, they may be fouled with algae and not as noticeable.



What to do if you catch a tagged fish:

- Record the **Tag ID number** and **location** (length and depth if possible)
- Call 858-534-2156 and leave us a detailed message
- Let us know if you kept or released the fish (with or without tag)
- We now have CCFRP hats as a reward for tag return data!

Surveys in 2024!

Stay on the lookout for emails from catchreporter@gmail.com with details on our schedule for the 2024 field season. Be sure to respond quickly to ensure you don't miss out on joining us for another exciting year of surveys!



If you are a member of a fishing club that is interested in participating, please let us know! We can always use more volunteers on our science team. Science team members help with rigging gear, shuttling fish, descending bloated rockfish, collecting data, and assisting anglers with their gear.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at catchreporter@gmail.com! Volunteers must be 18 years or older.



Please take a moment to follow "Coastal Angler Tagging Cooperative" on Facebook, as well as "CCFRP" on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, and our new website!

<https://www.ccfprp.org>

Look out for an announcement regarding the **Angler Workshop we will be having before the season starts!**

While you wait for that though...

Here is the list of our 2024 CCFRP Trip Dates!

Wednesday June 26th (Seaforth Sportfishing, Mission Bay)

Thursday June 27th (Seaforth Sportfishing, Mission Bay)

Tuesday July 16th (Oceanside Sea Center, Oceanside Harbor)

Wednesday July 17th (Oceanside Sea Center, Oceanside Harbor)

Wednesday July 24th (Seaforth Sportfishing, Mission Bay)

Thursday July 25th (Seaforth Sportfishing, Mission Bay)

Wednesday July 31st (Seaforth Sportfishing, Mission Bay)

Tuesday August 6th (Oceanside Sea Center, Oceanside Harbor)

Wednesday August 7th (Oceanside Sea Center, Oceanside Harbor)

Wednesday August 14th (Oceanside Sea Center, Oceanside Harbor)

Thursday August 15th (Oceanside Sea Center, Oceanside Harbor)

Monday August 19th (Seaforth Sportfishing, Mission Bay)

Start thinking about what trips you'd like to sign up for!

***NOTE: You cannot sign up for trips just yet!**

We look forward to seeing you all again and working with you this season!



**Thank you for your
support of CCFRP**

