



# Volunteer Newsletter

## A Summary of the 2024 Sampling Season

Presented by: Claire Stuart & Aris Ownbey



California Collaborative  
Fisheries Research Program –  
North Coast Collaborative  
Fisheries Research



Greetings Volunteers,  
You've been waiting for it, and here it is.... the 2024 Humboldt CCFRP newsletter! Last season was a great one, thanks to our strong support system of community members that care about the research we do. In 2024 we completed the 10<sup>th</sup> season of hook and line surveys for the Ten Mile and Cape Mendocino MPAs and their reference sites. Check out these stats:

Since 2017, we have:

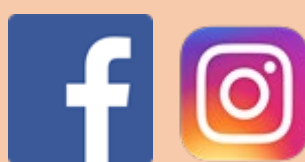
- Conducted **150** hook and line surveys
- Enlisted **122** volunteer anglers
- Caught and released **16,801** fish (**11,616** tagged)
- Captured a total of **28** different species

This season, we:

- Completed **12** trips total
- Caught **1,369** fish (**599** tagged)
- Retained **160** specimens for further data
- Captured **20** different species



You can follow us on Facebook at **NorthCoastCFR** and Instagram @CCFRP to stay up to date on MPA monitoring throughout the state! Visit [ccfrp.org](http://ccfrp.org) to access all reports and previous newsletters!

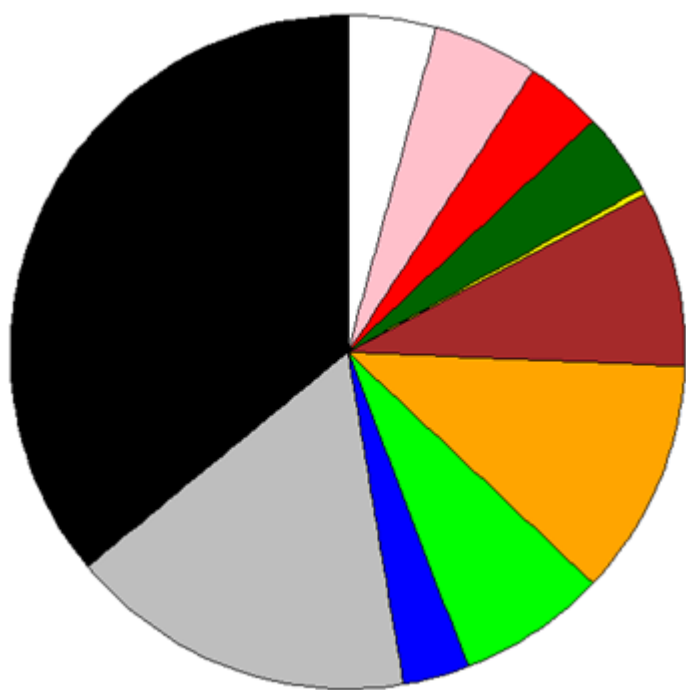


### Special thanks to:

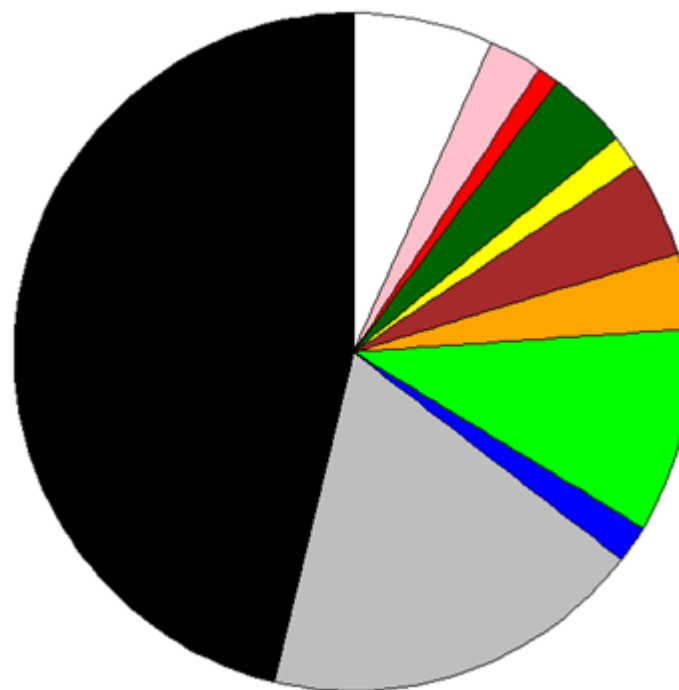
- Cal Poly Humboldt - Fisheries Biology Department and Principal Investigators: Dr. Andre Buchheister and Dr. Jose Marin Jarrin
- Cal Poly Humboldt - Telonicher Marine Lab
- Northwind Charters & Fort Bragg Fishing – Captain Matt, Captain Kurt, and Richard

# 2024 Species Composition

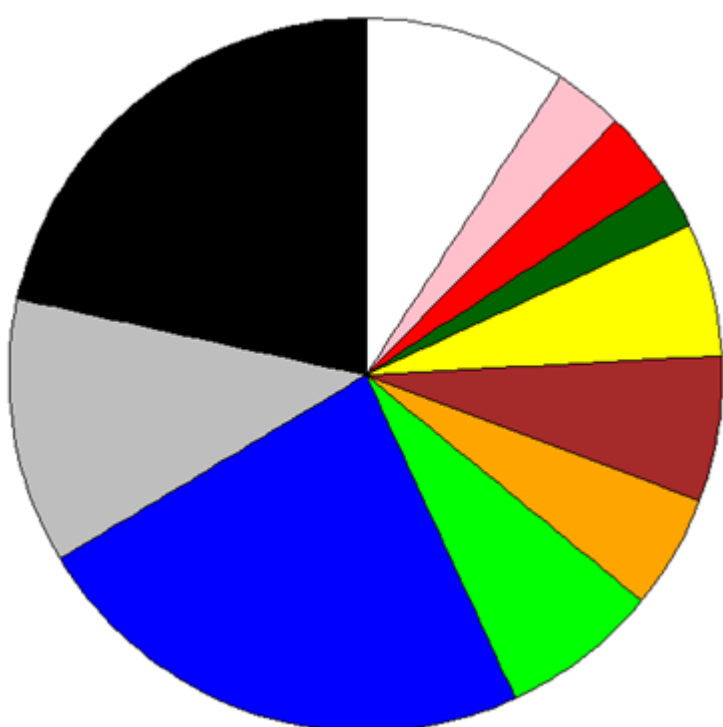
## Cape Mendocino MPA



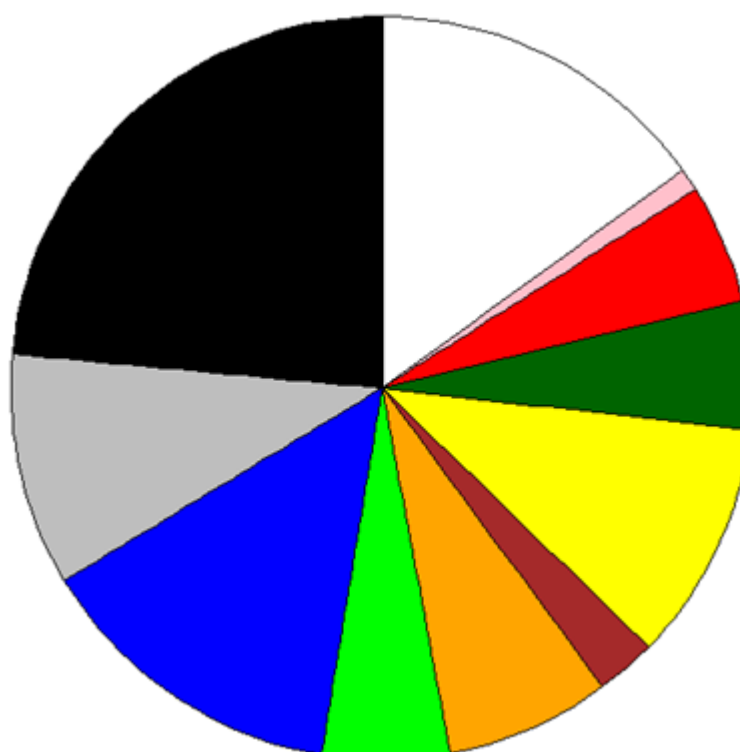
## Cape Mendocino REF



## Ten Mile MPA



## Ten Mile REF



### Species



These pie charts show the 2024 species composition of the **top ten species**, with an “OTHER” category for the rest of the species observed. Species composition was most similar between the paired sites (MPA + reference site, or REF). At the **Cape Mendocino paired sites**, 50-70% of our catch was made of deacon and black Rockfish. Comparatively, blue rockfish make up a larger proportion at the **Ten Mile paired sites**. The Ten Mile REF, similar to last year, had the highest proportion of yellowtail rockfish and “OTHER” species of all the sites. The Cape Mendocino MPA has the highest proportion of canary rockfish again too. We didn't catch as much deacon rockfish as we did last year, but the counts of black rockfish remained close between 2023 and 2024.

# Top fish of 2024

Deacon Rockfish



Lingcod



Vermilion Rockfish



Species	Length*
Black Rockfish	51cm (20in) Angler: Andre B.
Blue Rockfish	39cm (15in) Angler: Richard M.
Lingcod	91cm (36in, 3ft!) Angler: Shawn T.
Canary rockfish	48cm (19in) Angler: Richard M.
Deacon Rockfish	48cm (19in)** Angler: Richard M.
Copper Rockfish	51cm (20in) Angler: Richard M.
China Rockfish	41cm (16in) Angler: Andre B.
Quillback Rockfish	46cm (18in) Angler: Nissa K.
Vermilion Rockfish	58cm (23in)*** Angler: Patrick M.
Yellowtail Rockfish	36cm (14in) Angler: Andre B.
Kelp Greenling	38cm (15in) Angler: Richard M.
Yelloweye Rockfish	60cm (24in) Angler: Andre B.
Cabezon	56cm (22in) Angler: Yaad R.

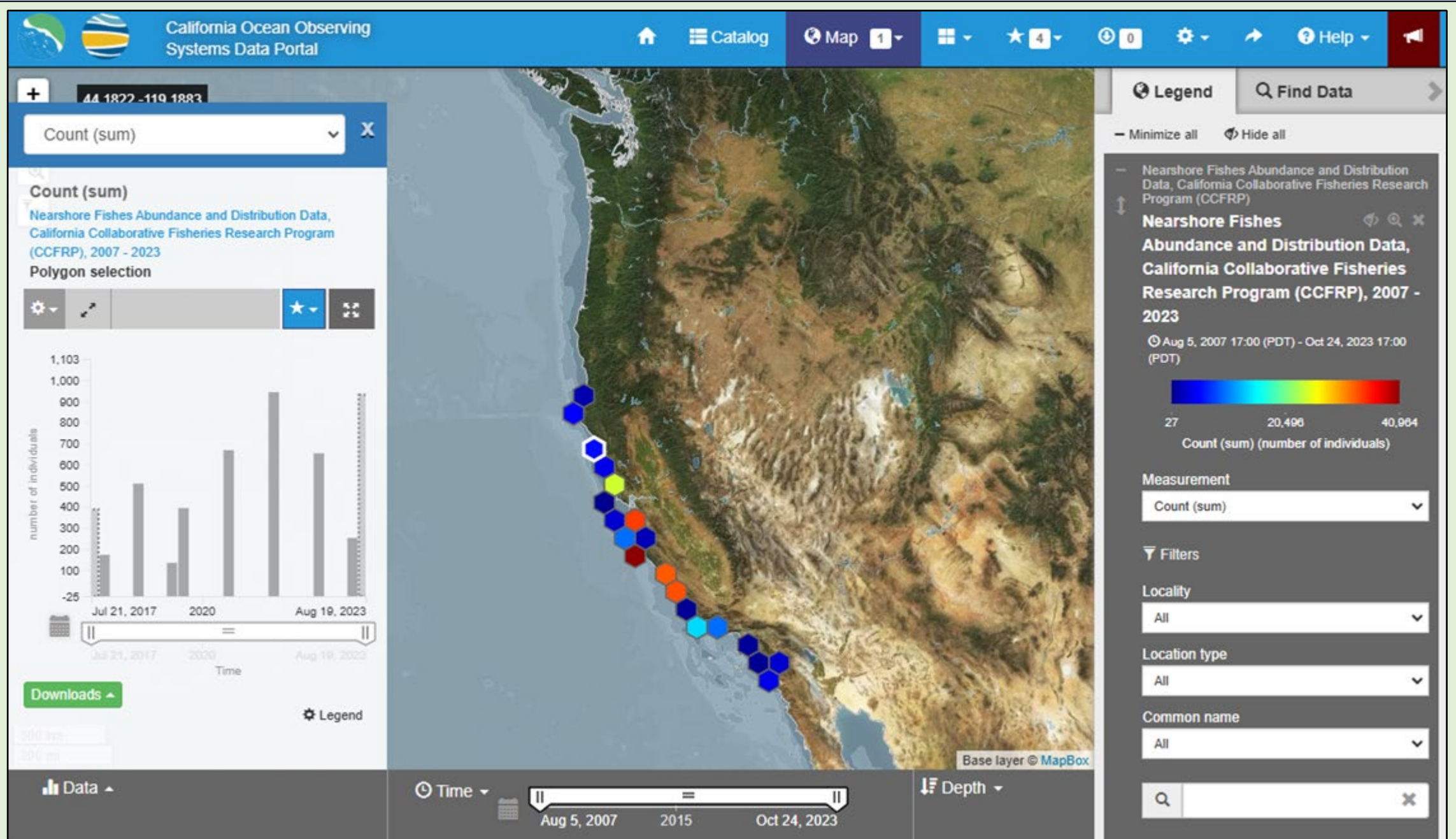
\*Fork lengths rounded to the nearest centimeter and inch, respectively

\*\*Tied for the CCFRP record length!!!

\*\*\*New Record for Humboldt CCFRP! 2<sup>nd</sup> place CCFRP overall

# CCFRP Interactive Data Map

The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) is a partnership of researchers, recreational anglers, and charter boat captains invested in MPA monitoring and fisheries research in California. There is a new way CCFRP data has become publicly available: through the California Ocean Observing Systems (or CalOOS) Data Portal! We are excited to share how you can explore CCFRP sampling across all locations and compare catch in MPAs and reference sites for yourself!



Through the CalOOS data portal ([data.caloos.org](http://data.caloos.org)), you can find the CCFRP data layer by searching “CCFRP” in the catalog. Once you add the layer to your map, it will appear as the picture above.

Each dot on the map is a cluster that changes spatially as you zoom in or out. You can search for data pertaining to a single species or single location from the filters on the right side. You can change the timeline of available data by adjusting the white time bar on the bottom of the map. You can make basic plots of the shown data by clicking on a colored hexagon or dot and then the Data button on the bottom left. Happy exploring!



Scan with your phone camera to open the data map in CalOOS

# Angler shoutouts

This season we have a fantastic crew of anglers, and wouldn't you know it, we keep track of everyone's catch in our data! A special shoutout goes to the 2024 angler with the **highest catch in a single day trip** at **58** fish: Yaad R. Congratulations Yaad! P.S. If you want to know your catch estimate for a trip you took with us this season, send us a message at [northcoastcfr@gmail.com](mailto:northcoastcfr@gmail.com)!

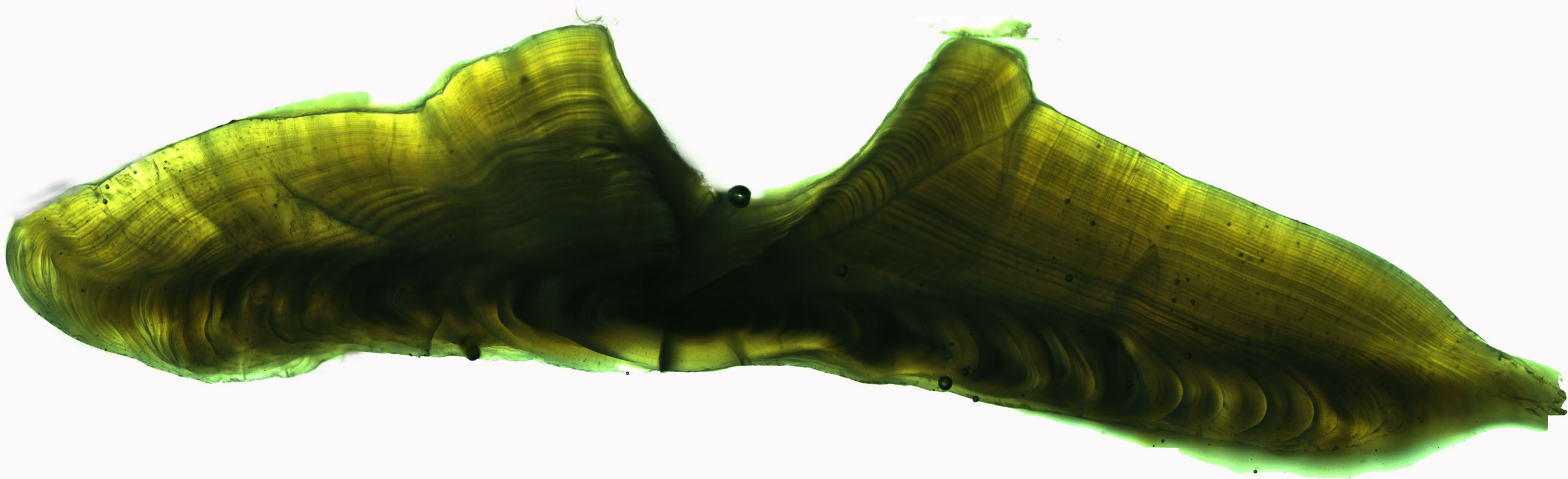


Recaptures are the fish that go the extra mile, or sometimes not, sometimes they haven't travelled at all! They give us insider information on what fish do down there in the ocean blue. In the 2024 season we recorded 7 recaptured fish, 3 of those being on CCFRP fishing trips! One of those fish was a Copper rockfish, pictured left, that had been at liberty for over 9 years! It was originally tagged July 2015 and we caught it again within the same 500x500m area it had been tagged in!

## Fishy returns

# What's up with those Quillback, Claire?

Many moons have passed since Claire, your veteran Humboldt lead tech, took up the mantle of a Master's thesis on quillback rockfish. What HAS Claire done with all this time when she's not on a boat? To list a few, she presented her research on quillback age and growth at various conferences, made connections with fisheries offices to gather age-length data, and stared at otolith rings hoping they'll tell her their secrets. Here's some pictures to prove that, and make sure to keep an eye out for her public thesis defense sometime later this year!



This otolith thin-section is how you can age fish! Otoliths are ear bones that lay down a layer with each year of a fish's life, like rings on a tree. Can you see the annuli on this one? The quillback rockfish this otolith belonged to was from Alaska and determined to be 46 years old by age-reading experts. The oldest quillback rockfish ever aged was 95 years old!



Small quillback like this are very important for growth studies. The field work the CCFRP conducts helps add this valuable data to stock assessment models.



Claire presented her preliminary findings at the American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii in September. Northern California rockfish research in the spotlight!

# Welcome Aris!

Aris Ownsbey joined us as a co-lead of the Humboldt CCFRP in Spring of 2024. She just completed the first semester of her master's program and is currently developing her thesis, which focuses on investigating rockfish trends inside and outside of MPAs statewide and explores variations in patterns amongst rockfish that exhibit different levels of mobility. She had a great first field season and is excited to get back out on the water in 2025!



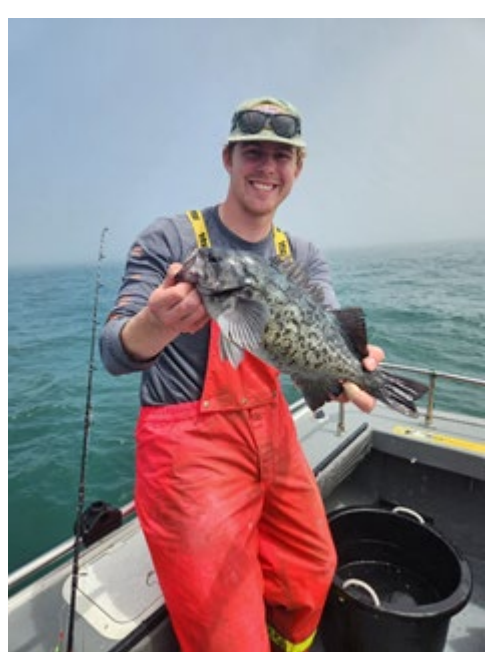
## The Humboldt team



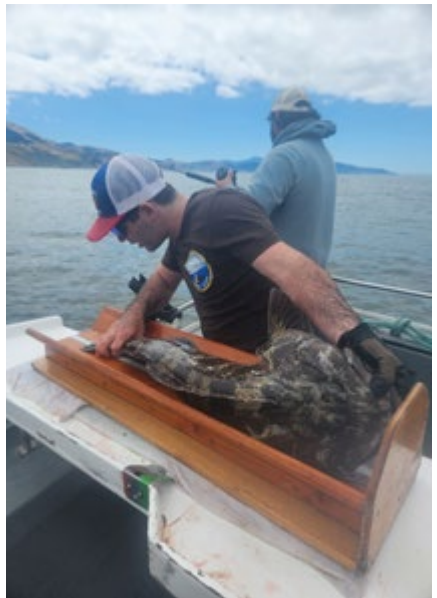
Ben is an undergraduate at Cal Poly Humboldt and started strong as the tech on the first couple trips in 2024



Clay returned from last year to join the team for some dissections and a trip to the Cape!



Inigo is another Cal Poly Humboldt student that got salty with some rockfish this season



Elliot is our veteran Humboldt tech and a master lingcod whisperer and fish runner



Tyler is an undergrad at Cal Poly Humboldt too and is pictured here with his favorite catch, a California Sea Cucumber



Dr. Andre Buchheister is Claire and Aris's primary graduate advisor and co-Principal Investigator for the Humboldt CCFRP



Dr. Jose Marin Jarrin is the co-Principal Investigator of the Humboldt CCFRP and Marine Fish Ecologist for Cal Poly Humboldt



# I wish for fish...



A rare catch for the CCFRP: a Red Irish Lord (*Hemilepidotus hemilepidotus*)! The last time we saw one of these guys was in 2014 – the Baseline Monitoring days - in Crescent City. This one was encountered in the Cape Mendocino MPA



Does this count as a double catch? This lingcod had a recent fish dinner (we think it had been a kelp greenling) than made an appearance when brought aboard



We are lucky to sometimes see Yelloweye rockfish with their juvenile stripes! Back to the water they always go, hopefully to grow big and fecund.



Thank you volunteers for another great season! See you in 2025

