



CCFRP

Volunteer Newsletter 2024

A Summary of the 2023 Sampling Season



Greetings CCFRP Volunteer Anglers!

With your help, Cal Poly CCFRP has completed the 2023 sampling season; this was our 17th 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 347 person hours. In that time, we caught a total of 4,377 fishes comprised of 26 species; approximately 13 fishes per angler hour. Thank you for participating in this magnificent season – we couldn't have done it without you!

Angler Workshop 2024 Information

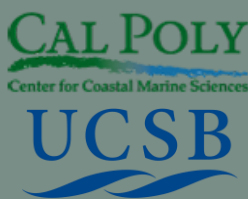
To celebrate all the hard work you did this season, we would like to invite you to our annual volunteer angler appreciation event and data workshop! All past, present, and future volunteer anglers are welcome! We will be discussing the data we collected in 2023 as well as updating you on continuing project 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 20, 2024, 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!



Join Us for the 2024 Sampling Season

We need your help to have another successful sampling season! Be sure to keep an eye on your email for details about the upcoming 2024 CCFRP season, including the 2024 sampling schedule. Once the schedule is released, make sure to respond to the email promptly with your availability to secure your fishing spots. We are working hard behind the scenes to get those dates to you as soon as possible.



Tag Recaptures



Tag returns 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. Remember that 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 and contact: seagrant@mlml.edu



CCFRP Science Crew Updates

A few of our science crew from last year have moved on to new exciting opportunities! **Erin Schneider** is participating in an internship in the phytoplankton ecology lab at MOTE in Sarasota, Florida. **Tal Klir** is a marine ecology junior specialist for a kelp lab at UCSB, and **Shannon Fong** is back in school working to get a certificate in programming. A few more science crew members are getting ready to or have already graduated from Cal Poly! **Forrest Powell** will graduate in June with his degree in Business and is thinking about going to grad school. **Isaac Choy** will graduate in March with a degree in Biology, and **Johnny Paneno** graduated in the Fall and is working as Laboratory Technician for an aquaculture lab at Cal Poly. Students **Elsa Simenstad** and **Helen Lee** are both in their third year of pursuing their degrees in Biology. **Adam Poleman** is in his second year of pursuing a degree in Environmental, Earth, and Soil Science, and **Gillian Douglas** is in her third year of pursuing a degree in Marine Biology. **Kaila Fritch** is in her second year of her graduate program and is continuing to work on her thesis on rockfish habitat associations using CCFRP data. **Erin Johnston** graduated in June with an M.S. in Biological Sciences and has *officially* become our fearless CCFRP leader both for the SLO chapter and as Statewide Coordinator!

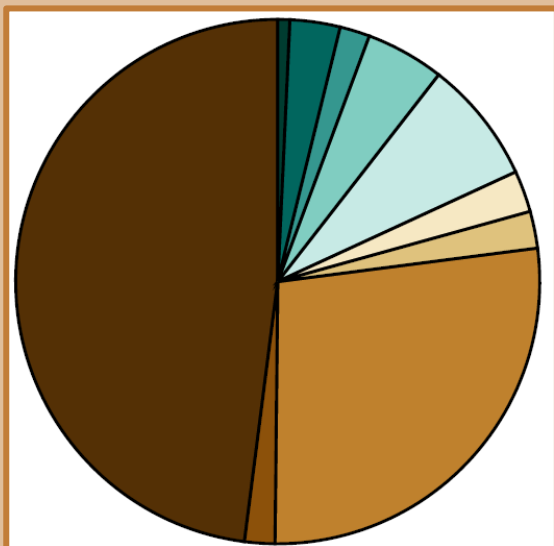


Dr. Benjamin Ruttenberg is one of our magnificent Cal Poly CCFRP PIs. Ben runs the Marine Conservation Lab at Cal Poly and is the director of the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences. We are so lucky to have him as one of our PIs!

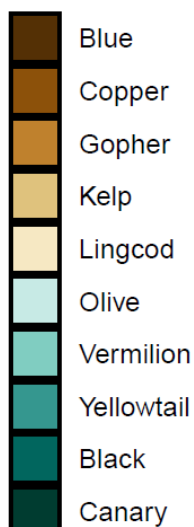


Dr. Dean Wendt, our marvelous and majestic Cal Poly CCFRP PI, continues to run not only our collaborative fisheries ecology research program, but the entire Bailey College of Science and Mathematics for Cal Poly. He continues to amaze us all with his wonderful outfits and busy schedule. We are always so happy to have him around!

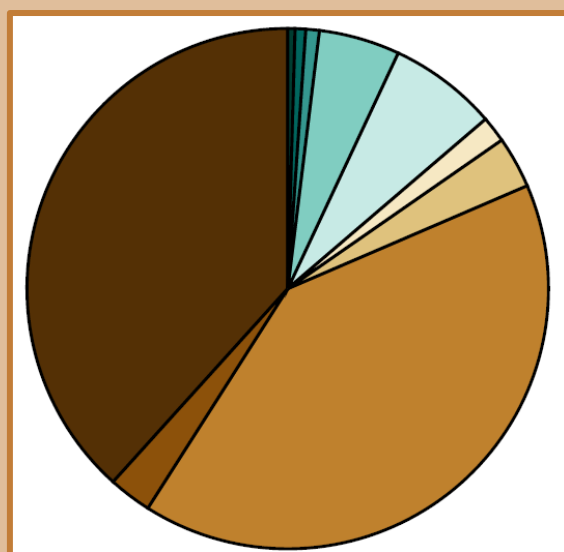
Cal Poly All Time Species Composition



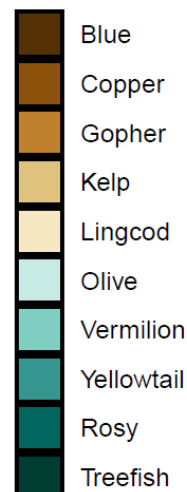
Species



Cal Poly 2023 Species Composition



Species



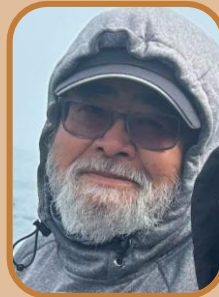
These pie charts show Cal Poly's CCFRP **species composition for all time (top)** and the **2023 sampling season (bottom)**. The 2023 sampling season brought a **total of 4,377 fish caught** with Blue (1641 caught) and Gopher (1734) Rockfish being the most frequently caught species. In total, **Blue and Gopher Rockfish** consisted of **77.1%** of the catch in 2023, consistent with long term trends. Unexpectedly, Treefish snuck their way into the 2023 top ten list making 19 appearances! The crowd favorites of Vermilion (215 caught), Copper (114), Lingcod (69) came in fourth, sixth, and seventh place, respectively.

****Note:** Only the top ten species are shown for both pie charts. 26 different species of fish were caught in 2023, and 56 unique species have been caught over time at Cal Poly SLO.

What's up with all the Lingcod?

Who caught the biggest lingcod?

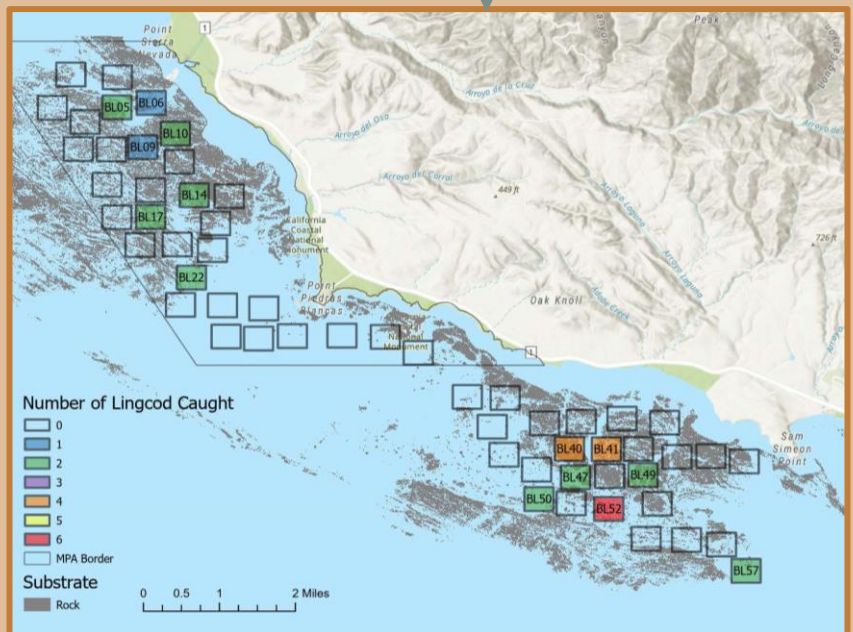
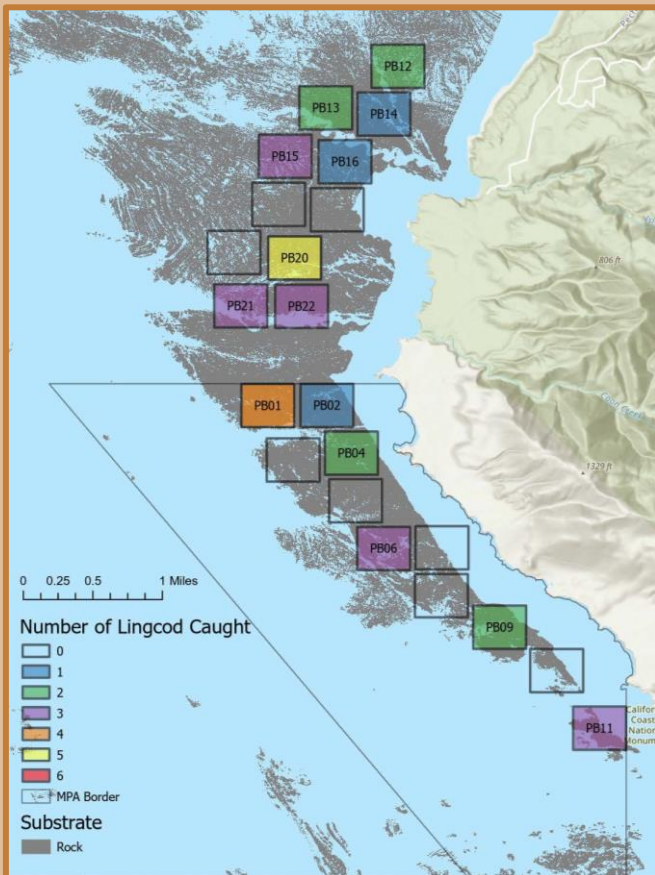
Congrats to our anglers Whitney U., Nick S. and Mark S. for catching the biggest Lingcod of the season!!



Top 3 Largest Lingcod Caught in 2023

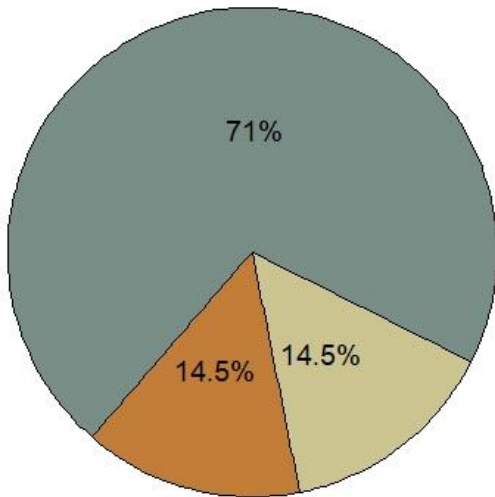
Angler	Fork Length (mm)	Sex	Site	Area	Gear Type
Whitney U.	814	F	REF	BL	BAR
Nick S.	781	F	MPA	BL	FLY
Mark S.	766	F	MPA	BL	BAR

Ever wonder where we catch all our lingcod? These two maps show the cells that we catch the most lingcod in!! Cell 52 (red cell) in Piedras Blancas was the hottest lingcod cell this season!



What's up with all the Lingcod?

Lingcod Catch by Gear Type

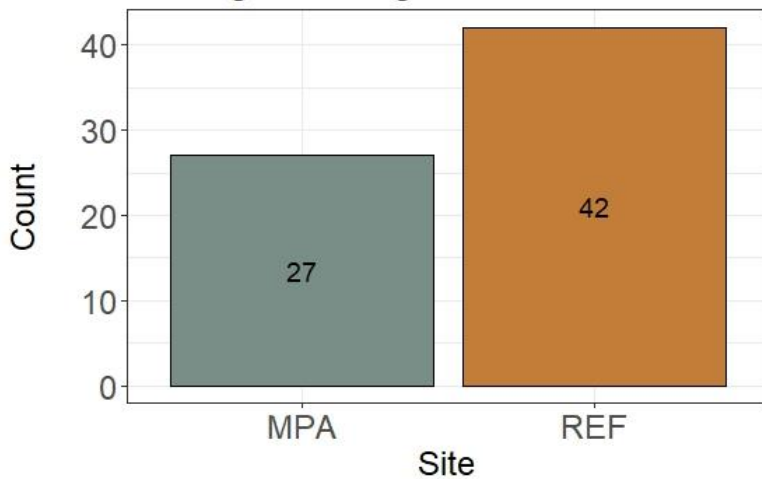


Gear



Unsurprisingly most of the lingcod we caught this season were caught on lingcod bars, but the rest were caught equally by baited and unbaited shrimp flies!

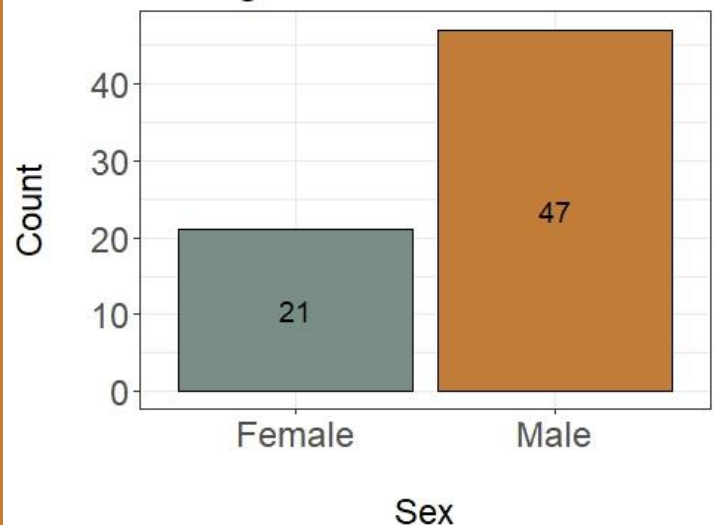
Lingcod Caught in MPA vs REF



We caught more male lingcod than females this season and most of them were in the Ref!



Lingcod Males vs Females



Largest and Smallest Catches from 2023



Blue Rockfish

Minimum: 88 mm (3.46 in)
Maximum: 428 mm (16.85 in)



Copper Rockfish

Minimum: 224 mm (8.82 in)
Maximum: 514 mm (20.24 in)



Gopher Rockfish

Minimum: 140 mm (5.51 in)
Maximum: 395 mm (15.55 in)



Kelp Rockfish

Minimum: 205 mm (8.07 in)
Maximum: 373 mm (14.69 in)



Lingcod

Minimum: 307 mm (12.09 in)
Maximum: 814 mm (32.05 in)



Olive Rockfish

Minimum: 170 mm (6.69 in)
Maximum: 520 mm (20.47 in)



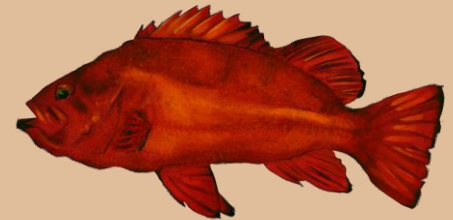
Rosy Rockfish

Minimum: 110 mm (4.33 in)
Maximum: 249 mm (9.80 in)



Treefish

Minimum: 299 mm (11.77 in)
Maximum: 396 mm (15.59 in)



Vermilion Rockfish

Minimum: 243 mm (9.57 in)
Maximum: 515 mm (20.28 in)



Yellowtail Rockfish

Minimum: 225 mm (8.86 in)
Maximum: 426 mm (16.77 in)

Largest Catches of All Time



Blue Rockfish
2016

Angler: Ralph B.
Length: 450 mm (17.7 in)
Area: Point Buchon MPA
Bait: Shrimp Fly



Copper Rockfish
2014

Angler: Phil E.
Length: 540 mm (21.3 in)
Area: Piedras Blancas MPA
Bait: Shrimp Fly with Squid



Gopher Rockfish
2019

Angler: Don M.
Length: 420 mm (16.5 in)
Area: Piedras Blancas MPA
Bait: Shrimp Fly with Squid



Kelp Rockfish
2013

Angler: Bob S.
Length: 410 mm (16.1 in)
Area: Point Buchon MPA
Bait: Shrimp Fly



Lingcod
2015

Angler: Tim D.
Length: 970 mm (38.2 in)
Area: Point Buchon MPA
Bait: Metal Jig



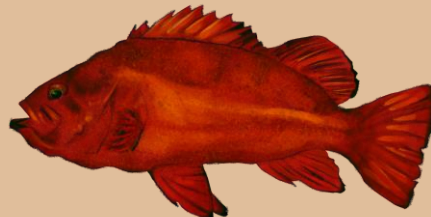
Olive Rockfish
2023

Angler: Lillian F.
Length: 520 mm (20.5 in)
Area: Point Buchon MPA
Bait: Shrimp Fly



Yellowtail Rockfish
2020

Angler: David K.
Length: 450 mm (17.7 in)
Area: Point Buchon MPA
Bait: Shrimp Fly with Squid



Vermilion Rockfish
2015

Angler: Richard D.
Length: 550 mm (21.7 in)
Area: Point Buchon MPA
Bait: Shrimp Fly



Black Rockfish
2009

Angler: Marcy D.
Length: 430 mm (16.9 in)
Area: Point Buchon REF
Bait: Shrimp Fly



Canary Rockfish
2010

Angler: Jeff G.
Length: 440 mm (17.3 in)
Area: Point Buchon MPA
Bait: Shrimp Fly with Squid





FISH ON!

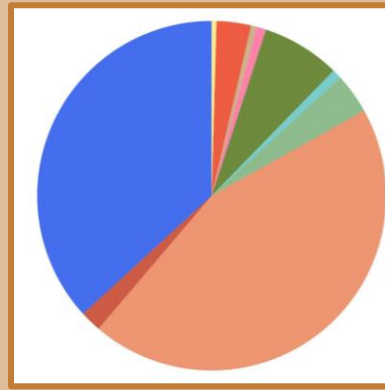
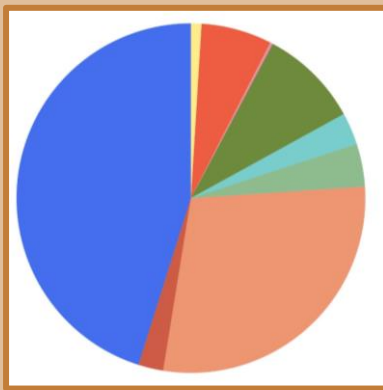
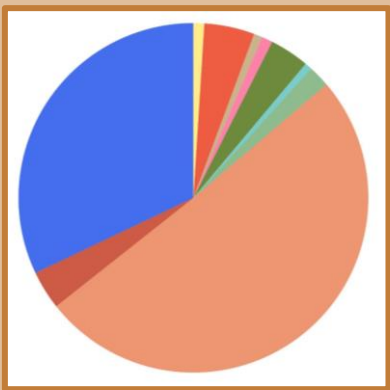
LOOKING AT FISH SPECIES BY
GEAR TYPE



Baited Shrimp Fly

Lingcod Bar

Unbaited Shrimp Fly



Species

- Blue rockfish
- Copper rockfish
- Gopher rockfish
- Kelp rockfish
- Lingcod
- Olive rockfish
- Rosy rockfish
- Treefish
- Vermilion rockfish
- Yellowtail rockfish

Those hungry Gopher Rockfish
dominated for both baited and
unbaited shrimp flies.



Us Blue Rockfish couldn't resist a
lingcod bar!





2023 CCFRP Sampling Season

CAL POLY
Center for Coastal Marine Sciences

