SCCWRP Annual Report 2011

Spatial distribution of Southern California Bight demersal fishes in 2008

Eric F. Miller[1] and Kenneth Schiff

[1]*MBC Applied Environmental Sciences, Costa Mesa, CA*

ABSTRACT

In an effort to better characterize the spatial dynamics of their assemblages the demersal fish communities throughout the Southern California Bight (Point Conception, California to the United States- Mexico border) were sampled in 2008 utilizing standardized methods under an inter-agency program. Otter trawl sampling was conducted in habitats ranging from select bays and harbors out to the upper continental slope. Pacific sanddab (*Citharichthys sordidus*) was the most commonly caught species and contributed the greatest biomass. The catch compositions at each site generally segregated along depth gradients, but not latitudinal gradients except for within the bay/harbor strata. The largest catches were recorded in the central area, which includes the Santa Monica Bay and the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor. Offshore densities peaked along the middle and outer shelf (30-200 m depth). Species diversity was comparatively stable and elevated along the deeper portions of the continental shelf relative to the inner shelf (<31 m depth) with the minimum diversity recorded in the southern portion of the inner shelf.

Full Text

ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/DOCUMENTS/AnnualReports/2011AnnualReport/ar11_271_284.pdf