

SCCWRP #0008

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S INSHORE DEMERSAL FISHES: DIVERSITY, DISTRIBUTION, AND DISEASE AS RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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ABSTRACT

The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) has been established to study the coastal water environment, especially with respect to the effects of municipal waste-water discharges. In the summer of 1971, the project began an intensive analysis of fish data that was being collected by coastal monitoring agencies using small otter trawls. The objectives of the SCCWRP study were (1) to determine whether or not previously reported diseased and abnormal fish populations were related to the discharge of wastewater in Southern California and (2) to determine whether or not information useful to marine pollution control problems was being taken by these trawl surveys. Today, I am going to summarize some of our observations on the abundance, diversity, and health of southern California's inshore demersal fish populations and, for purposes of discussion, present some new hypotheses on the possible impact of man's activities on these fish populations.

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