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Epidermal tumors in *Microstomus pacificus* (Pleuronectidae) collected near a municipal wastewater outfall in the coastal waters off Los Angeles

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ABSTRACT

The long-term temporal and geographic trends in the incidence of epidermal tumors in the *Microstomus pacificus* population on the mainland shelf off the Palos Verdes Peninsula are described. From 1971 through 1983, 501 *M. pacificus* (1.2% of total) with epidermal tumors were collected in 672 otter trawls. Tumors were generally confined to smaller individuals; 2.5% of the fish smaller than 150 mm SL were affected compared to 0.1% of the fish larger than 150 mm sl.

The annual incidence of tumors in *M. pacificus* declined at one of the four sampling sites and remained unchanged at the other three. Geographically, the incidence of tumors was higher closer to the wastewater outfalls. The data suggested that tumorous *M. pacificus* do not participate in the annual offshore migration to the same extent as unaffected individuals.

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