

Demersal fishes of the upper continental slope off southern California

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ABSTRACT

This study covers the composition, distribution, and abundance of fishes collected by otter trawl and longline between 290 m and 625 m. Fifty-four species of fish were collected: 42 species were caught in trawls, and 30 species were caught on longlines. Only 18 species were caught by both types of gear. The number of species decreased with increasing depth in the trawls but not on the longlines. There were no depth-related trends in abundance or biomass for either gear. Fewer fish were caught during the summer by both types of gear.

Trawl catches were dominated by *Sebastolobus alascanus*, *Sebastolobus altivelis*, *Sebastes diploproa*, *Microstomus pacificus*, *Glyptocephalus zachirus*, and *Lyopsetta exilis*. Composition of the trawl catches was consistent between areas, seasons, and years.

Longlines were used on mud and banks. Catches on the mud were dominated by *Sebastolobus alascanus*, *Anoplopoma fimbria*, and *Sebastolobus altivelis*. Catches on the banks were dominated by *Anoplopoma fimbria*, *Sebastes melanostomus*, and *Sebastolobus alascanus*.

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