

methods. This presentation will update the preliminary findings of the most intensive survey of reefs in the Southern California Bight.

82. THE ICHTHYOPLANKTON OF KING HARBOR, REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, 1974–2006

D.J. Pondella, II¹, J.P. Williams¹, and E.F. Miller². ¹Department of Biology and Vantuna Research Group, Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, 1600 Campus Rd. Los Angeles, CA 90041; ²MBC Applied Environmental Sciences, 3000 Red Hill Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

The Vantuna Research Group has been monitoring the ichthyoplankton of King Harbor, Redondo Beach on a monthly basis continually since 1974. In the southern California bight, this is the only long-term monitoring program of this nearshore larval fish assemblage. Over this time series, the larval community significantly changed. There were three major annual groupings of fish larvae: 1974–1977, 1978–1994 and 1995–2006. The larval assemblage of King Harbor was not returning to the pre-1978 condition, instead it continued to move on a trajectory away from the cold phase of the PDO. Macro scale oceanographic processes (ENSO, PDO, Southern California Bight SST) were not significant factors in the change in larval densities over time. The major factor in the change over time was a long-term decline in larval catch. This change was a factor of declining nearshore productivity. Larval catch was statistically similar between the VRG King Harbor study and the Redondo Beach Generating Station's entrainment characterization survey. Using change among years in larval density as a factor, a minimum three year interval would be necessary to describe the change in this larval community.

83. 15 YEARS OF PLATFORM FISH RESEARCH SOMEHOW REDUCED TO A 15 MINUTE SOUNDBITE

M.S. Love and M. Nishimoto. Marine Science Institute, University of California, Santa Barbara, 93106. D. S. Schroeder, Minerals Management Service, 770 Paseo Camarillo, CA 93010.

We have surveyed the fish assemblages of southern California oil and gas platforms since 1990. In general, the shallow portions of the platform structure (jacket) are dominated by nearshore reef fish species and by young-of-the-year rockfishes (genus *Sebastes*). The sea floor-platform jacket habitat is primarily occupied by sub-adult and adult fishes, again primarily rockfish species. The shell mounds surrounding platforms serve as habitat for dwarf fish species, such as rockfishes and lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*). Platforms tend to harbor higher densities of young rockfishes than do natural reefs, probably because pelagic juvenile rockfishes are more likely to encounter the platforms' greater vertical relief. Similar to natural reefs, platforms both produce and attract fishes. Recent research demonstrates that fishes living near platforms do not have higher levels of heavy metals than do those inhabiting natural sites.

84. HABITAT FORMING INVERTEBRATES ASSOCIATED WITH OIL PLATFORMS IN THE SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL: POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE STABLE STATES

H.M. Page, J.E. Dugan, C.S. Culver, and S.C. Schroeter. Marine Science Institute, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, 93117.

In this talk, we briefly review the characteristics of the shallow water platform invertebrate assemblage and explore the possibility that alternative stable states can occur. Two species of mussels, *Mytilus californianus* and *M. galloprovincialis* have traditionally been the dominant space holding taxa at water depths of <15 m on oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel (SBC). Mussel clumps provide three dimensional biotic habitat for other sessile and mobile species. Observations and data indicate that mussels are a predictable and stable space-holding dominant, having been reported on platforms for 30+ years, and capable of re-colonizing platforms over time if removed through human or natural disturbance. However, a photographic survey of seven platforms in the SBC in 2001 revealed the presence on one of them of a potential "alternative" assemblage dominant, the non-indigenous bryozoan *Watersipora tubtorquata*,