



Reporting Period: February 24 to March, 2018

Note: Missing dates normally mean that the wind contributed to boats not going out to fish. I have a NEW email if you can send me any fishing news or pictures: lyncurt0@gmail.com If you can send reports by the 24th of the month, they have a better chance of being added in for the next report.

03/03 SAND DOLLAR fished 14 Mile for limits of rockies and three triggerfish. PERRYDIZE went out but said there wasn't anything biting worth mentioning.

03/08 GATORBAIT fished Turner for one little yellowtail and a few bottom fish. SEA SHELL fished 14 Mile for a few stubborn rockies.

03/09 PERRYDIZE fished San Esteban for 10 yellowtail and bottom fish. EL PATO fished 14 Mile for some "sandies"/rockies and very nice corvina limits.

03/10 TZINGANE fished off Christmas Tree for limits of rockies and a nice flounder/halibut. EL SUENO tried 14 Mile but reported poor fishing. HANNAH RYAN caught bottom fish at Turner.

03/?lost date ESCAPE went to San Esteban and trolled for limits of nice yellowtail near the light house.

03/16 FISH FINDER caught limits of nice rockies at 14 Mile, while NIGHTWINGS got limits of nice sized rockies and one triggerfish but the fishing was tough. NW also released a 35# totoaba after a long fight on a spinning rod and 20# test. ;-)

JAYHAWKER, SAND DOLLAR, HANNAH RYAN, PERRYDIZE, and EL PATO tried everything around Esteban and Turner but only totaled 3 yellowtail and bottom fish.

03/17 JAYHAWKER went to 14 mile but was shut down early by really rough water after catching a couple of rockies and a barracuda.

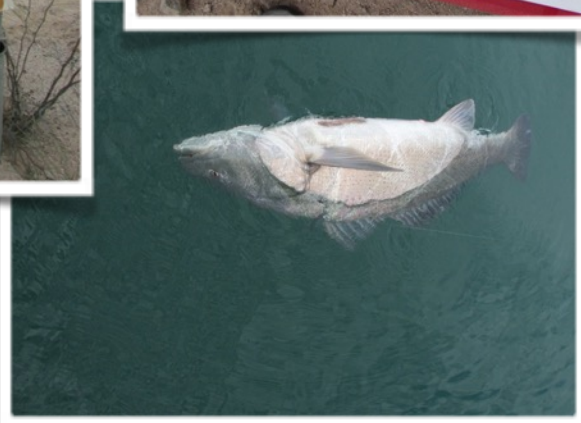
03/23 A beautiful calm and warm day. SEA HAVEN at Pedro Matir for limits of nice goldies and grouper to 40#. PERRYDIZE also was at Pedro for limits of goldies and one 8# cabrilla/sardinera. GATOR BAIT, 4 PLAY, and JAYHAWKER all at Turner area for limits of bottom fish plus Tom VH on GATOR BAIT landed a 48# Black Sea bass (mero prieto), and an unidentified smaller grouper. Kent caught a nice sheep head on JAYHAWKER also. SAND DOLLAR, FISH FINDER, and EL SUENO all went to try San Esteban but trolling was not producing for anyone despite lots of bird action. Plenty of bottom fish were harvested and FISH HUNTER caught a nice sheep head at the NE corner. No yellowtail were reported caught anywhere

03/24 SAND DOLLAR and NIGHTWINGS went to 14 Mile but found very slow fishing in general. Fish sign (on sonar) and lots of porpoises indicated lots of bait in the area, but the fish were very reluctant to bite. NIGHTWINGS had a couple of brief hot bites, with small rockies/sandies, and croakers (yellowfin, corvina to six pounds, totoaba to @35#). We only kept one decent rockie/sandie, some corvina and croakers, and photographed the bigger guys before releasing. Unfortunately, they were very camera shy and would not pose. It was a lot of fun on light gear though. GATOR BAIT was fishing the Turner area, mainly bottom fishing as the yellowtail were still not making a showing.

There have been a few big Black Sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*) caught this winter. From what I have read or heard they usually live in water between 250 and 100 feet deep. They do reach weights approaching 600# and will eat baits to

one foot long. In the Sea of Cortez they occur north of Mulege. Unlike grouper, their body shape is not compressed and the dorsal fin is not rounded at the rear.

Photos of Black Sea bass, sheep head, corvina, yellowfin croaker, and shy totoava:



Matt Curtis, Fishery Biologist