

FISHING REPORT

Reporting Period: January 25, 2024 to February 25, 2024.

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

01/31 WET WILLY reported a great trip to Pedro Matir after finding birds and catching limits of nice Yellow Tail trolling.

02/04 Unidentified Mexican spear fishermen at the KBRV fish house had a really nice "catch" of Sardinera/ Leopard Grouper and a huge Black Sea Bass (? Unsure of species). They were diving in around 50 to 60 feet of water at San Pedro Matir. Also got a report from either RIDGE RUNNER/ HILL BILLY YACHT catching limits of Grouper at Pedro Matir.

02/05 EL SUENO first tried trolling The Turner area with no hits, then Deadman, same result, so tried fishing deep 350 to 400 feet down in the "Cross Roads" and had a nice catch of bottom fish and a White Sea Bass of around 20 pounds. NIGHTWINGS fished Dead Man jigging for a few Goldies, and one nice Yellowtail (around the birds) before moving to the Colorado Risco area and jigging up another Yellowtail, a beautiful 10 pound "Pinta" or Pinto Bass, and a variety of bottom fish. Water was 64-65 degrees there. There were big (Fin?) whales breaching and spouting towards Isla San Esteban while at Dead Man, an awesome and welcome site.

02/14 CAP'N JACK fished the shoreline from the ramp to the end of Playa Roca Roja for Rockies (Barred Bay Bass). GATOR BAIT finished near Turner for Salmon (aka Ocean White Fish) Goldies, Rockies, and "Mother-in-Laws", aka Suegra or Giant Goby. NIGHTWINGS had a slow-ish day at Colorado Risco and Dead Man for a variety of bottom fish. RIDGE RUNNER caught Goldies in the Turner area, as did SEASHELL. SAND DOLLAR had a good catch of Goldie's, Mother-in-laws and a White Sea Bass in the Eagle's Nest to the north area. Water temperatures around 61 degrees in this area. EL SUENO went to San Esteban and bottom fished for Goldies, a Sheepshead and Yellowtail on bait, then went to Colorado Risco for Goldies and Salmon.

02/18 EL SUENO fish San Esteban and had no luck trolling for Yellowtail, so tried bottom fishing and caught Goldies and "Salmon". Water temperatures were 61 degrees. GATOR BAIT went to fish deep at the "Cross Roads" for a great day on Grouper.

02/19 SAND DOLLAR had a good day bottom fishing deep for Goldie's and Suegra from Turner towards Eagle's Nest.

02/20 GATOR BAIT caught limits of Goldies to just over 8 pounds. The record for this species is 10 pounds 4 ounces, so that was a "Lunker" for sure. NIGHTWINGS again at Colorado Risco in a fast drift jigging, as usual, caught some very nice, better grade Goldies on jigs (5 to 7 ounce Salas and Tady), a nice 7 pound Pinto Bass, and a 5 pound California Sheepshead (a female in transition to a male). See following article and explanation for more. NIGHTWINGS kept seeing large flocks of various sea birds but not much sign of fish on the surface or on the sonar. After trying deep jigging and fast retrieves with no luck near the birds, we tried fast retrieving right on the surface and caught two nice Yellowtail to 16.5 pounds on blue and white mackerel and blue and chrome jigs on our first casts. That pretty well finished us for the day.

"The Sheephead story":

Since bottom fishing has encountered some Goldie's and California Sheephead, I thought I would add a "little" about the latter fish.

Data: *Semicossyphus pulcher* commonly known as "sheephead" or "Sheepshead", "Perico" in our area, or "*Vieja californicana*" in some parts of Mexico.

Member of the Wrasse family. Found in the Pacific near Southern California and Sea of Cortez in kelp beds or near rocky reefs.

Reaches lengths of 91cm (35 inches) and weights to 16kg (35 pounds)



Easily recognized by their large forehead, impressive canine teeth, and reddish to red and black markings and white lower jaw.

Other interesting facts: They feed upon lobster, crab, squid, sea urchin, and barnacles, which they can crush and grind with their canines and special crushing muscles and structures in their throats.

These fish are known as "Protogynous hemaphrodites", which means that the females (all are born female and reddish brown in color) are able to change sex and become male (with black head and tail section and red middle section) once they reach a certain size and the conditions exist. Different theories state that this change could be the result of food availability or the loss of the dominant male in a school or



harem of females. Apparently, a female in the group will transform into a new male to replace the lost dominant. All sounds kind of kinky...? Whatever the cause, they are hard fighting, colorful fish. They are excellent eating, often referred to as "poor man's lobster", commonly fried, steamed or baked.

Finally, our local toothy fish is often called either "Sheephead" or "Sheepshead" and I guess both are acceptable, BUT technically speaking, the true "Sheepshead" is a deep bodied, whitish-silver fish with big black vertical bars and large teeth found in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic. (See last photo below). I personally remember catching one of these off a pier near Port Aransas, Texas. It was the largest fish I ever caught from shore in the Gulf of Mexico, and I will never forget it!

