



Reporting Period: Jan 26 to Feb 23, 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.

01/26 JAYHAWKER caught limits of "rockies" at Turner area in rough seas. TSIGINE caught bottom fish at Turner and saw no sign of yellowtail. SAND DOLLAR caught a nice haul of "rockies" and "goldies" fishing Deep Reef and Turner area.

01/31 Heard an unverified report of nice catches of yellowtail up near Punta Willard.

02/1 Lots of boats out but only a few reports. ROSIE boat fished in 59 degree water at San Esteban and landed nine yellowtail, two sand sharks, and lots of "goldies".

02/2 JAYHAWKER caught limits of bottom fish at Turner.

02/3 ROSIE boat returned to San Esteban for three yellowtail and some small goldies. The yellowtail were boiling on the surface but not biting.

02/9 ROSIE boat at San Esteban for five yellowtail and limits of bottom fish.

02/7 SAND DOLLAR went up to try Willard and Eagle Nest but hit really high winds. They caught one yellowtail and bottom fish. JAYHAWKER went to Turner and found rough seas also, so went on to 14 Mile for lots of big rockies. TZIGINE caught bottom fish at Turner and Dead Man but no sign of yellowtail.

02/13 HILL BILLY YACHT went to fish 57 degree water at San Esteban for three yellowtail, two "brownies" (sardinera), and a small catch of goldies.

02/14 JAYHAWKER caught four limits of bottom fish at Turner

02/18 GATOR BAIT and HANNAH RYAN went to 14 MILE for big "rockies" and some larger finny surprises (released and anonymous)

02/23 SAND DOLLAR went to San Esteban for two sheephead, goldies and no YT. JAYHAWKER caught limits of bottom fish and five yellowtail (at Turner?).

I have written about the croaker family in the past but since the report is short I will revisit that group. There are four or five species of game fish sized croakers in addition to some other "bait-sized" ones.

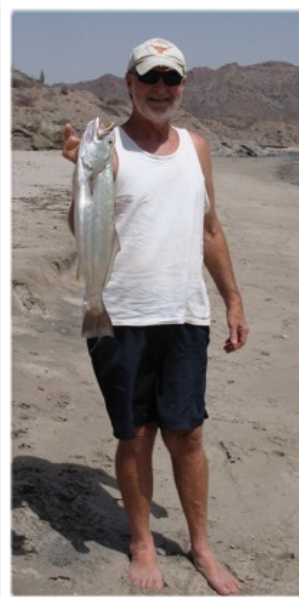
White Sea Bass (*Cynoscion nobilis*) One of Kino's favorite sports fish, this is loved everywhere it is found. It's defining features are a ridge of scales on the ventral (belly) side between the vent and base of the pelvic fins (below the head) and the concave shape of the back edge of the caudal (tail) fin. It spawns in the Spring and Summer seasons and is found in a variety of habitats from kelp beds to flat sandy bottoms and off the sides of rocky reef areas from 50 to 250 feet. They feed mainly on bait fish, small squid and some crustaceans near the bottom. White Sea bass only live five years according to one source, hard to imagine as they can reach weights over 83 pounds. I believe I have heard of them caught around here to 65 pounds at least. They are often overfished due to their size and high food quality. In California there are strict limits on size and catch and commercial netting is no longer allowed. Unfortunately, that is not true in Mexico and large numbers are gill netted in Mexico. We must be careful not to keep over the limit on this species. They are usually caught by fishermen using live bait, such as their smaller croaker cousins or Cortez grunts. Jigs in chrome, white, blue and white or "angry squid" work well, with or without added bait, especially squid.



Corvina species (*Cynoscion xanthulus*/*parcipinnus*), and yellowfin croaker (*Umbrina roncadore*) are both found in water nearshore to around 100+ feet deep over a mix of sand and rocky areas. I have never caught a corvina over 7.5 pounds myself but have heard from numerous sources of them being caught to 20 pounds south of here to San Carlos. They are found from Southern California around to the Sea of Cortez up to the Colorado River Delta (except for warmer areas). They look a lot like fresh water trout and their relatives in the Gulf of Mexico are commonly called sand trout or speckled trout, and are caught in the



Totoava (*Totoaba macdonaldii*) is very similar to the White Sea bass but is only found in the northern third of the Sea of Cortez. It reaches sizes to over 300 pounds and is equally good to eat. However it is supposed to be released if caught as it is federally protected everywhere due to extensive overfishing. The easiest way to recognize it is by looking at the tail fin, which has a clearly convex back edge. Their main spawning ground is in the Colorado River delta, where a lot of illegal netting goes on, some of which is even supported by cartel groups. There are special protective groups that work there to try to catch illegal fishing. The main reason for their near



same types of habitats. In the photo below, the top two fish are yellowfin croakers and the third is a corvina. There are three species of corvina in the Sea of Cortez at least. Both are considered good eating and fun to catch, even if smaller than their cousin croakers from above. Yellowfin croakers average around a pound up to 2.8 pounds max. The



demise was the popularity of the air bladders, which were dried, ground and used as a soup additive in China. There are occasionally caught around Kino fishing with bait, or on jigs like those used for White Sea bass. They should be released alive immediately if possible.



corvina are usually caught with silvery spoons, like Kastmaster or Crocodile types, on light tackle near the bottom while croakers are usually caught on cut bait. Some years both are caught in big numbers at 14 Mile in the Spring, along with the "sandies" (spotted bay bass).—
Matt Curtis, Fishery Biologist