

Job Report

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Project No. M-7-R-1 Date November 3, 1961
Project Name: Biological Survey of Area M-7
Period Covered: September 1, 1960 to August 15, 1961 Job No. C-2

Fish Tagging Program

Abstract: The total number of fish tagged was 537. Most of the fish tagged were Cynoscion arenarius. Only three tagged fish had been recovered at the time this study period ended. Due to lack of tag returns, very little information was obtained concerning migrations, growth rates, and fishing pressure in this area.

Tagging should be continued for several consecutive years before conclusive results can be anticipated.

Objectives: To determine migrations, growth rates, and amount of fishing pressure in area M-7.

Procedure: Fish collected by hook and line, nets, and trawl were tagged, measured, recorded and released.

Findings: Fish tagged during this period were predominantly Cynoscion arenarius, and most of these were tagged during the last part of the period. Also tagged were Sciaenops ocellata, Pogonias cromis, Cynoscion nebulosus, C. nothus, and Paralichthys lethostigmus. Fish harvested for tagging were captured mostly by rod and reel. Only three tagged fish, all C. arenarius, were recovered. Due to lack of tag returns, very little information is available concerning growth rates and migrations at this time.

Two of the three recoveries came from a school of fish that was tagged on October 31, 1960, at Long Reef (Corpus Christi Bay). Both of these fish were recovered at Indian Point (Corpus Christi Bay) on December 28, 1960. They were free for 59 days and traveled three nautical miles. The other recovered fish was tagged November 7, 1960, and was recaptured on January 15, 1961, at the T-heads (Corpus Christi Bay). This fish traveled $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles and was free for 70 days.

Larger numbers of fish should be tagged during short periods of time in an effort to obtain more tag returns and more knowledge of fish migrations, growth rates, and fishing pressure.

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Accepted by:

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