

Job Report

Rudy Martinez
Marine Biologist

Project No. M-7-R-1

Date October 30, 1961

Project Name: Biological Survey of Area M-7

Period Covered: September 1, 1960 to August 15, 1961

Job No. A-2

Annotated Checklist of Fish Species Present in Area M-7

Abstract: A checklist of the fish species collected in area M-7 during this project year is contained in this report. The list includes only the species that were actually observed and does not include all the species that are known to occur in this area. New species that are observed will be added to the list in future reports.

Objectives: To prepare a checklist of the fish present in the area and to note their distribution, life histories, and relative abundance.

Procedure: Samples of fish were collected by trawl, seine, hook and line, push net and gill nets at stations in area M-7.

Findings: The following species were collected:

Carcharhinus limbatus (Muller and Henle) - The black-tipped shark occurred commonly during summer months. Several specimens were taken in gill nets during July and August.

Dasyatis sabina (Le Sueur) - This species was common in the area all year and was frequently caught in trawls and nets.

Rhinoptera bonasus (Mitchill) - Only one specimen was collected. It was taken with rod and reel in May.

Lepisosteus spatula (Lacépède) - The alligator gar was not very common in the area, but a few were taken in Nueces Bay in a salinity of 16 0/00.

Bagre marina (Mitchill) - Adult gafftopsail catfish first appeared in June and were plentiful during summer months. Young of the year appeared in July.

Galeichthys felis (Linnaeus) - The sea catfish was common all year.

Elops saurus (Linnaeus) - Skipjacks were common in the area during the summer months.

Brevoortia gunteri (Hildebrand) - Menhaden occurred commonly in the area but were most abundant in Nueces Bay.

Dorosoma cepedianum (Le Sueur) - The gizzard shad was not common in the area.

Anchoa mitchelli (Valenciennes) - This species was very abundant and preferred areas with sandy bottom.

Anchoa hepsetus (Linnaeus) - This species was common but not as abundant as A. mitchelli.

Fundulus similis (Baird and Girard) - Killifish were most abundant in Nueces Bay and were present all year.

Fundulus grandis (Baird and Girard) - This species was abundant along the shore line.

Cyprinodon variegatus (Lacépède) - The broad killifish was common along the shore line.

Hyporhamphus unifasciatus (Ranzani) - Half-beaks were taken in the summer months along the shore areas.

Hippocampus sp. - Seahorses were not common.

Syngnathus louisianae (Gunther)

Syngnathus scovelli (Evermann and Kendall) - Both of these pipefish were found in vegetated areas all year.

Menidia beryllina peninsulae (Goode and Bean) - Tidewater silversides were very abundant throughout the area.

Mugil cephalus (Linnaeus) - Striped mullet were very common and were taken in nets at all stations all year.

Mugil curema (Valenciennes) - One specimen was taken in September.

Caranax hippos (Linnaeus) - The common jackfish was abundant during summer months.

Vomer setapinnis (Mitchill) - This species was taken during September and October.

Chloroscombrus chrysurus (Linnaeus) - This species was taken in trawl samples during September.

Selene vomer (Linnaeus) - Common during October and November.

Trachinotus carolinus (Linnaeus) - The common pompano was taken in September and October with rod and reel.

Peprilus paru (Linnaeus) - Harvest fish were taken in trawl samples during September and October.

Lobotes surinamensis (Bloch) - Tripletails were found during summer months.

Orthopristis chrysopterus (Linnaeus) - Pigfish were very abundant from January to August.

Lagodon rhomboides (Linnaeus) - Pinfish were very common in shallow grassy flats during warm months. During cold periods they were found concentrated in channels.

Archosargus probatocephalus (Walbaum) - Sheepshead were common all year and were caught in large numbers by fishermen.

Gerres cinereus (Walbaum) - Common in trawl samples during summer months.

Cynoscion arenarius (Ginsburg) - Sandtrout were extremely abundant during fall months. Most abundant in channels and around reefs.

Cynoscion nothus (Holbrook) - Silver trout were common but not very abundant.

Cynoscion nebulosus (Cuvier) - Spotted sea trout occurred throughout the year but were most abundant in fall. Large specimens were found in Nueces and Oso Bays.

Sciaenops ocellata (Linnaeus) - Redfish were very common throughout the area during fall months. During September and October, redfish eight to ten inches long were present in coves and protected areas.

Pogonias cromis (Linnaeus) - Black drum were common all year but were most abundant during fall and winter.

Bairdiella chrysura (Lacepede) - Silver perch were common in Corpus Bay.

Micropogon undulatus (Linnaeus) - Croakers were present in large numbers from September through May.

Leiostomus xanthurus (Lacepede) - Spot appeared in large numbers all year.

Menticirrhus littoralis (Holbrook) - Southern kingfish were not common.

Stellifer lanceolatus - This species was present in trawl samples from April to December.

Balistes carolinensis (Gmelin) - Triggerfish were taken in trawl samples but were not abundant.

Sphoeroides nephelus (Goode and Bean) - Swellfish were very common all year.

Prionotus tribulus - This sea robin was commonly taken in trawl samples all year.

Gobiosoma bosci (Lacepede) - The naked goby was commonly found around reefs.

Gobionellus hastatus (Girard) - The sharptail goby was not common.

Trichiurus lepturus (Linnaeus) - Cutlass fish were common during summer but died easily during cold periods.

Astroscopus y-graecum (Cuvier) - One specimen was taken in December.

Opsanus beta (Goode) - Toadfish were common during summer months.

Citharichthys spilopterus (Gunther) - Spot-finned whiffs were taken in trawl collections all year.

Paralichthys lethostigma (Jordan and Gilbert)

Paralichthys albigutta (Jordan and Gilbert) - Flounders were extremely abundant this year, and many were caught by fishermen.

Symphurus plagiusa (Linnaeus) - Tonguefish were common but not very abundant at any time.

Chilomycterus schoepfi (Walbaum) - Spiny box fish were frequently taken in trawl samples during all seasons.

Porichthys porosissimus (Valenciennes) - Midshipman were taken in trawl samples during summer months.

Prepared by Rudy Martinez

Marine Biologist

Accepted by 

