

OBSERVATIONS OF FINGERLING CHINOOK SALMON IN THE STOMACHS OF YELLOW PERCH FROM THE KLAMATH RIVER, CALIFORNIA

In a study to determine the relationship between yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) and young salmonids, Coots (1956) examined the stomachs of 731 perch collected from March 1951 through March 1952 from the Klamath River in California and found no salmonids. Additional perch stomachs were examined during a trapping operation for downstream migrant chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) fingerlings in February, March, and April 1952, but salmonids were not noted in their stomachs.

Under artificial conditions in live traps and aquarium tests with adult perch and fingerling salmon, Coots (1956) found that perch would eat the salmon if given the opportunity.

On 7 May 1976, the stomachs of 44 yellow perch taken from the Klamath River were examined for the presence of fingerling chinook salmon. These samples were collected from the Klamath River in Siskiyou County about 100 m downstream from the mouth of Bogus Creek just below the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery. They were taken in slack water near a brushy bank with a boat-mounted electrofisher.

Fingerling chinook salmon were found in 35 (80%) of the perch stomachs. Each of these stomachs contained one to five salmon, 3.2 to 4.4 cm fork length (FL). The average length of yellow perch with chinook salmon in their stomachs was 15.0 cm FL with a range of 12.2 to 19.8 cm FL.

At times, yellow perch and fingerling salmon apparently utilize the slack water area where the perch were captured, thus providing the opportunity for perch to prey on young salmon. If there were extensive areas with the proper conditions, perch predation on salmon fingerlings could be an important factor in salmon survival.

REFERENCE

- Coots, Millard. 1956. The yellow perch, *Perca flavescens* (Mitchill), in the Klamath River. Calif. Fish Game, 42(3): 219-228.
- Trygve F. Dahle, III, *Inland Fisheries, California Department of Fish and Game, 627 Cypress Ave., Redding, CA 96001. Present address: 4556 Myrtle Ave, Eureka, CA 95521. Accepted for publication April 1978.*

AN ABNORMALLY PIGMENTED SHORTSPINE THORNY-HEAD, *SEBASTOLOBUS ALASCANUS* BEAN

On April 17, 1975 a black shortspine thornyhead was caught by the trawler *Helen Louise* while fishing off Coos Bay, Oregon, in about 300 fm. The striking color abnormality was brought to my attention by skipper Tom McDonald and his crewman.

The entire fish was darkly pigmented, closely resembling the coloration of a sablefish, *Anoplopoma fimbria*. It was landed with about 2200 kg of normally pigmented (red) shortspine thornyheads. It was a female 452 mm total length, in excellent condition. This is the only such color abnormality I have observed for this species in over 6 years of sampling trawl catches in the Newport-Brookings, Oregon area.

- William H. Barss, *Marine Region, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Marine Science Drive, Newport, Oregon 97365.*

A JUVENILE OCEAN TRIGGERFISH, *CANTHIDERMIS MACULATUS* (BLOCH), (PISCES, BALISTIDAE) FROM THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA

On 20 August 1972, while dipnetting juvenile fishes at the docks inside San Carlos Bay, Sonora, Mexico, I collected an ocean or rough triggerfish, 12.8 mm standard length (SL). The fish was swimming under a small raft of seaweed, *Sargassum* sp, in the company of a clinid, *Exerpes asper*, which is locally abundant in the *Sargassum* habitat. The distinctively low meristic counts (D. III, 23; A. 20; P, 14) were within the ranges presented by Berry and Baldwin (1966), and the general body form agreed with their illustration. However, the pectoral fins were more lobed than they showed, the upper rays being four times the length of the lower rays.

Canthidermis maculatus has a circumtropical distribution, being found both inshore (rarely) and in surface waters of the open ocean. It is the most wide-ranging and probably the most abundant triggerfish in the eastern Pacific, where it has been reported from Haucho, Peru, to waters off central Mexico (Berry and Baldwin 1966). Of the six triggerfishes reported from the eastern Pacific by Berry and Baldwin (1966), three are residents in the Gulf of California: *Balistes polylepis* Steindachner, *Pseudobalistes naufragium* (Jordan and Starks), and *Sufflamen verres* (Gilbert and Starks). The addition of *Alutera scripta* (Osbeck), sometimes placed in the family Monacanthidae, raised the total to four (Boyd W. Walker, pers. commun.). My triggerfish is the fifth balistid recorded from the Gulf of California.

From 28 June to 21 July 1972, I collected about 2,750 juvenile fishes of approximately 40 species, in association with floating mats of *Sargassum* (Behrstock 1975). The collecting was done just outside the mouth of San Carlos Bay, about 1 km from the *Canthidermis maculatus* collection site. My samples included 20 juveniles of the finescale triggerfish, *Balistes polylepis*, a common species in the Gulf of California. Although most of the species I collected probably have spawning populations in the vicinity of San Carlos Bay, some, such as *Canthidermis maculatus*, may have been swept up the east side of the Gulf by the southerly winds which predominate during the summer (Roden 1958; Roden and Groves 1959) and represent expatriates from Pacific Ocean populations.

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