**Introduction**

- Between 1987 and 1998, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) (now Department of Fish and Wildlife) conducted sampling onboard 2,267 sport fishing trips: recording catch-rates, size, and species compositions for nearly 300,000 fishes.
- Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) were established in 2002 after seven rockfish species (Bocaccio, Canary Rockfish, Cowcod, Darkblatch Rockfish, Pacific Ocean Perch, Widow Rockfish, and Yelloweye Rockfish) were declared overfished.
- This collaborative project was formed between P.I.'s Dr. Sue Sogard and Dr. John Field of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Dr. Rick Starr of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) with the goal of assessing how 12 years of RCAs have affected rockfish populations, especially in relatively shallower regions of the RCA, which were previously frequented by fisheries.

**Methods**

- 23 fisheries-independent, standardized hook and line fishing trips were conducted using the expertise of local captains and volunteer anglers.
- 342 angler-hours were fished with 91 volunteers since October 2012.
- Each trip, 1.5 hours were fished inside the RCA and outside at a reference site (REF) at the sample locations (Half Moon Bay, Farallons, or Cordell Bank).
- Species composition, catch-rate, length and condition data were collected from 5,508 fishes from 29 species.
- Ovaries were collected for ongoing rockfish reproductive ecology study.

**Results and Discussion**

- Mean catch per unit effort (CPUE) increased at all sites relative to 1996-98 catch-rate data (Fig 2A).
- Yellowtail Rockfish, collected from 2012-13, were significantly larger at Cordell Bank, a result of ontogenetic shift to deep water (Fig 2B).
- Significant differences were found among mean total lengths of Yellowtail Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, 'Northern Blue' Rockfish and Widow Rockfish caught in the RCA and those caught in the respective REF sites. These also likely represent ontogenetic shifts to deeper water (Fig 2C).
- Yellowtail Rockfish (Sebastes floridus) comprised the largest portion of fishes caught (Figs 2A and 2D).

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**Future Steps**

Catch-rate, species composition and mean length data from the spring 2014 sample season will be integrated into the database. The 2012-14 mean species length data will be compared to 1996-98 mean length data by site to look at relative changes in length over time. The fecundity data collected is part of an ongoing project and will continue to be processed and presented at a later date.