JOB REPORT

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Project No. M-R-3. Date: June 29, 1959

Project Name: Marine Fish Faunal Survey

Period Covered: August, 1958 through March, 1959. Job No:

Objectives: To determine the distribution of fish species, particularly those in little sampled habitats, and gain any life history data possible.

Procedure: Collections of fishes from the Texas jetties and oyster reefs by the use of rotenone.

Findings: This study was conducted jointly with Dr. William N. McFarland of the Institute of Marine Science at Port Aransas, and has been assisted by both staffs. The study is not complete and will be continued at least by Dr. McFarland. To date a list of species taken from jetties and oyster reefs of the coast has been compiled. The Port Aransas Jetties have been rotenoned three times, Port Isabel and Bolivar, each once. Information on specimens from these jetties in collections has been compiled. The specimens we have from jetties and oyster reefs are listed in the accompanying tables. More complete information will be given in a final report when the study is more complete. One new fish (for the coast), Agonostomus monticola, has been taken, and many were taken that were originally considered uncommon. The jetties and oyster reefs support a large sport fishery, but most species taken are not primary associates. However, the primary associates provide food for many game fishes and the jetties may offer at least some protection for some of these fishes. The sheepshead, Archosargus probatocephalus, is a common jetty form and much of its food comes indirectly from the jetties. Some of the larger jewfish and sea basses provide a small summer fishery from the jetties. Many other smaller pan fish are also taken. More tropical species are being taken than previously, possibly due to a long term warming trend. It will be many years before this significantly affects the fishery, but if the trend continues, eventually tropical forms will begin to replace temperate ones. The jetty fishery is essentially a summer one, except for the sheepshead which is taken most often in the winter.

Prepared by H.D. Hoese. Approved by Howard T. Lee

Marine Biologist. Date Approved 13 August 1959
Fishes Known from the Texas Jetties. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are represented in our collections.

Primary Associates

- Brotula barbata*
- Labrisomus muchipinnis*
- Hypoleurochilus geminatus*
- Gobiesox strumosus*
- Scorpaena plumieri*
- Opsanus beta*
- Hypsoblennius iontanas*
- Labrisomus muchipinnis*
- Brotula barbata*
- Gobiesox strumosus*
- Scorpaena plumieri*
- Hennius cristatus*
- Hypleurochilus geminatus*
- Labrisomus muchipinnis*
- Pareques acuminatus*
- Bathygobius soporator*
- Brotula barbata*

Secondary Associates

Port Isabel

- Lutianus griseus*
- Lagodon rhomboides*
- Sparisoma radians*
- Epinephelus drummondhayi (Baughman, 1947)
- Anisotremus surinamensis (Baughman, 1945)
- Chaetodon ocellatus (Baughman, 1947)

Galveston

- Orthopristis chrysopterus*
- Lagodon rhomboides*
- Archosargus probatocephalus*
- Promicrops itiaria (Baughman, 1950)

Port Aransas

- Archosargus probatocephalus*
- Lutianus griseus*
- L. synagris
- Lagodon rhomboides*
- Orthopristis chrysopterus*
- Serranellus subligarius*
- Halichoeres bivittatus*
- Sparisoma radians
- Pomadasys crocro*
- Abudefduf saxatilis*
- Mycteroperca bonaci*
- M. interstitialis*
- Epinephelus adscensionis*
- Parepinephelus acutirostris*
- Kypticus saponaceus*
- Chaetodipterus faber*
- Anisotremus surinamensis*
- Chaetodon ocellatus*
- Promicrops itiaria (Baughman, 1947)
Fishes Known from Oyster Reefs of Texas Bays
(Galveston, East, Copano, Aransas, Mesquite)

Primary

Gobiesox strumosus*
Hypsoblennius ionthas*
Chasmodes bosquiamus*
Opsanus beta*
Gobiosoma bosci*
Gobionellus boleosoma*

Secondary

Archosargus probatocephalus*
Orthopristis chrysopterus*
Pogionas cromis*