Measurement of Juvenile Temperate Reef Fish Recruitment in Fished and Protected Nearshore and Intertidal Waters of Southern Oregon

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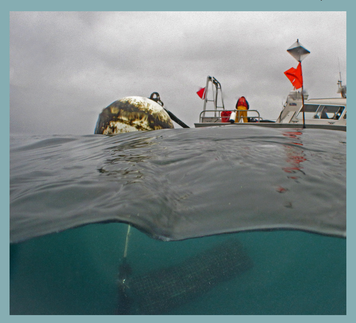
Background

- Temperate reef fishes in southern Oregon experience three distinct life stages, including recruitment or "settlement" from pelagic to benthic habitats in the juvenile stage.
- Studying recruitment rates of different species is a crucial indicator of future fishing stocks and the health of an ecosystem.
- As much about recruitment patterns and rates is still unknown, this project aimed to serve as a pilot for continued intertidal study and find preliminary differences between the nearshore and intertidal.

Methods

Standardized Monitering Units for the Recruitment of Fishes (SMURFs)



Intertidal Minnow Traps

Findings

Standardized Monitering Units for the Recruitment of Fishes (SMURFs)

Intertidal Minnow Traps

Discussion

- I was unable to make enough collections to yield results due to permitting issues, however the test deployments and observations displayed significant differences.
- The most prominent difference was overall differences in species abundance at the nearshore versus intertidal sites.
- From the three SMURF collections I completed, we collected around fifty fish of varying species.
- When compared to previous years, this is a significant overall decrease.
- But, during visual observations at the intertidal sites, we saw hundreds of juvenile fishes that had just recruited or had recruited over the last year.
- During test deployments, I was also able to determine different trap configurations that will generate the most success for future study.

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