



Department of Biology
College of Sciences
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego CA 92182 · 4614
Tel: 619 · 594 · 6767
Fax: 619 · 594 · 5676

Kevin A. Hovel
Associate Professor of Biology
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182

July 1, 2009

Eileen Maher
Assistant Environmental Director
Environmental Services Department
San Diego Unified Port District
PO Box 120488
San Diego, CA 92112-0488

Dear Ms. Maher,

This letter serves as our progress report for the second quarter of 2009 for our project “Movement and population size of spiny lobsters in San Diego Bay” (Hovel and Neilson).

Since our last report we have made substantial progress on our project. Our lobster traps were deployed throughout the Bay in May, and we have sampled our traps twice weekly since then. Our traps have been very efficient at capturing lobsters. We have tagged and released over 3,600 lobsters, and recaptured over 200 of these tagged lobsters to date. The attached graphs indicate the location of our sampling stations and some preliminary data reflecting where lobsters are most abundant in San Diego Bay. When our sampling for lobsters is completed later this year, we will use the information to estimate population size in the Bay and to plot lobster movement trajectories.

We also have initiated our acoustic tagging study in the Bay. Acoustic receivers were deployed throughout the Bay and in the adjacent kelp forest in June, and to date 80 lobsters have been fitted with acoustic transmitters. We will be downloading data from our receivers this month, and subsequently for the next several months, which will provide information about lobster movement patterns in and outside of the Bay.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Port of San Diego on this project and on future projects in San Diego Bay.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin A. Hovel

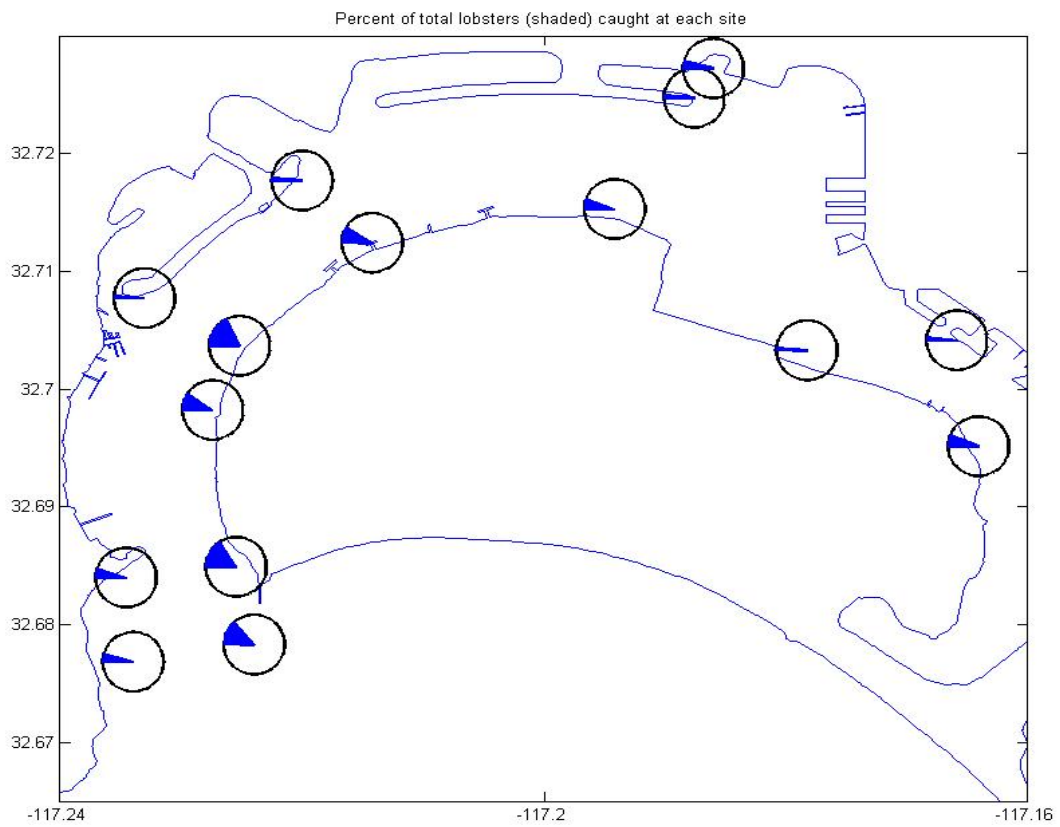


Figure 1. Percent of total lobsters captured at each of the 15 sites in San Diego Bay. Lobsters are most abundant in the front part of the Bay along Zuniga Jetty and along North Island Naval Station. Lobsters also are locally abundant at sites containing subtidal rip-rap and eelgrass habitat.

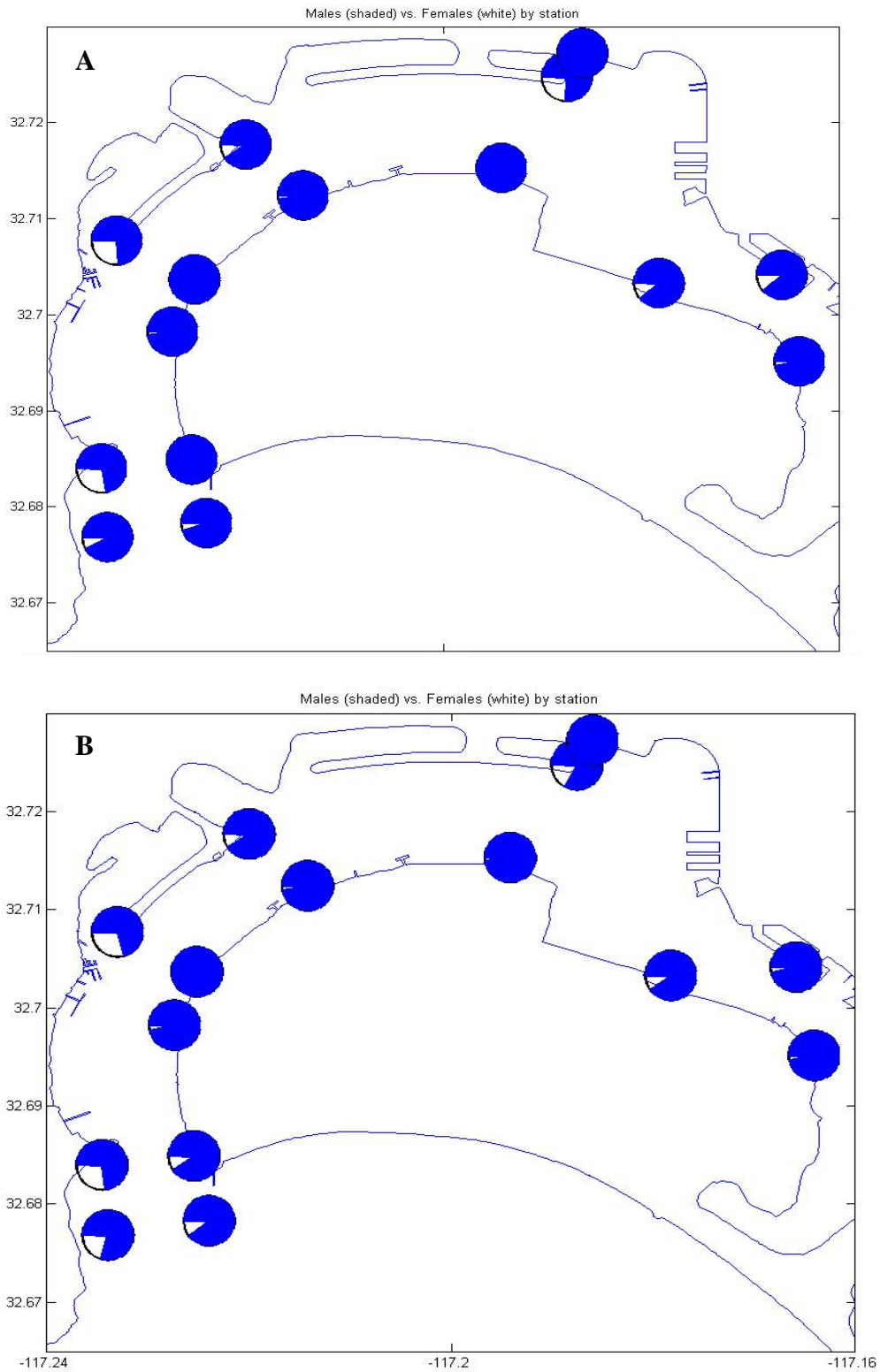


Figure 2. Proportion of male (blue) and female (white) lobsters by station by (A) June 1, 2009, and (B) June 26, 2009. Males made up more than 95% of the catch in early June, and the few females captured were plastered with a spermatophore. By late June, more females were captured in traps, primarily in the front bay, and many were ovigerous or had released eggs, suggesting that they are moving into the bay after releasing eggs offshore.

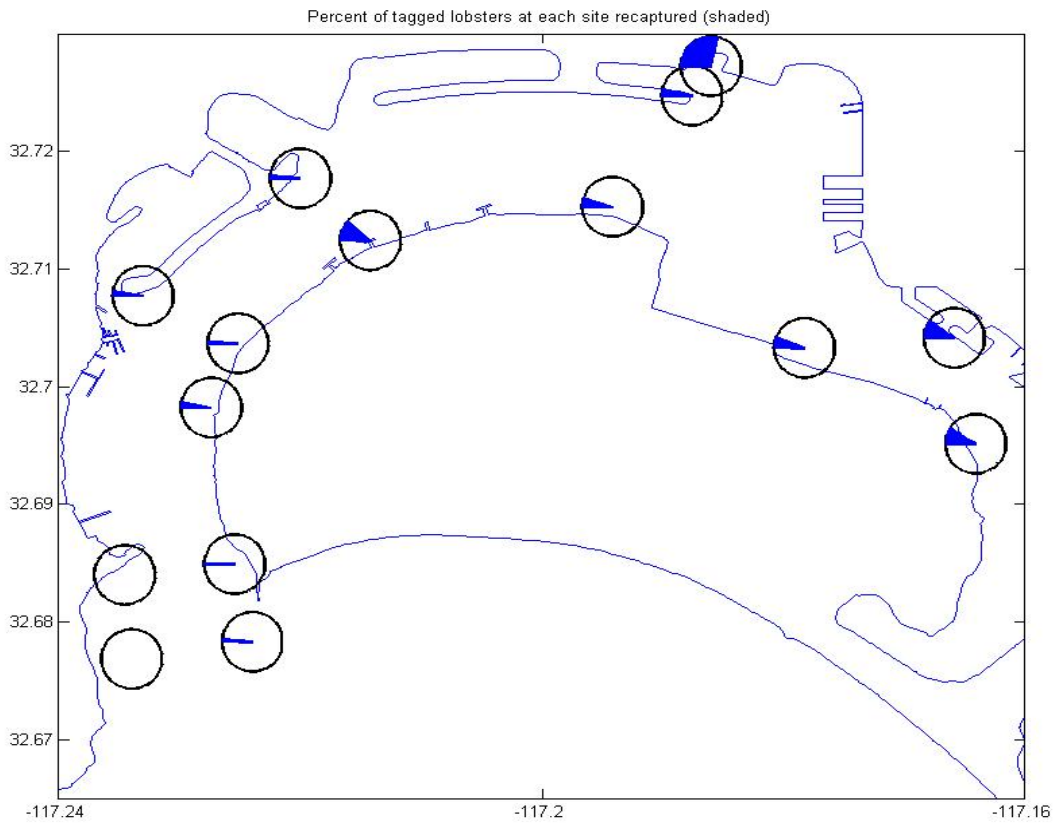


Figure 3. Percent of tagged lobsters at each site that have been recaptured as of June 26, 2009 in San Diego Bay. Generally, a higher proportion of recaptures occur in mid San Diego Bay than near the bay mouth, suggesting that lobster in the mid-bay tend to be more residential. No recaptures have occurred along the western margin of the bay mouth, suggesting that lobsters here are very transient, as they may be along Zuniga Jetty.