

July 31st OSA ¾ Day Inshore Trip

The ¾ day inshore trip with Helgren's Sportfishing began with the usual pre-trip signup. All hands except one were at the dock and ready to wet their lines. **Chartermaster John DeWitt** had spoken with Captain Tim of the potential plan for the day and it included fishing Calico Bass and or Sculpin. Input from OSA members on the trip offered variations on their desired species from offshore to Bottom fish. Captain Tim retained the final say on the plan.

The stop at the bait receiver was very encouraging with Sardines of small and large variety available. After getting a good load of fin bait and with the purchase of three pounds of squid by Jim Mauritz we were locked and loaded to take on all local targets.

The boat was headed west from the harbor and the first stop was off Encinitas. We immediately began catching small Calicos with an occasional legal and a couple of larger fish thrown in. We continued south during the course of the day with increased activity as the day progressed. Near the end of the day the current turned into a Calico current, running straight out to the stern. Bigger Calicos began boiling around the boat and a large Sardine thrown out away from the boat got instant results. The Jackpot Calico of 3 lbs. 2 oz. was caught by new Member Keith Russell during the ripper bite. Those that continued to use the smaller baits got instant bites but few if any legal fish.

The day turned out to be a total Calico fiesta but the opportunities were there for all to take advantage of and this pursuit is so beneficial to those with upcoming offshore trips.

The fish count for the day was thirty-nine Calicos, 4 Sheepshead, one Sand Bass and one sugar bass. Keeping with our goal of some catch and release approximately 20 legal Calicos were released with 4 being of the breeder variety. Congratulations to those that keep the stock at a sustainable level.

Our thanks to Captain Tim and deckhands Chris and Collin. Their knowledge of the fishery and their pursuit of an outstanding day on the water was apparent. The Sea Trek was plenty of boat to handle the 23 members on the trip and served as an excellent platform to pursue our goals.

I recommend to all members who haven't fished with Helgrens get on one of our trips. You might just have one of your best days on the water ever.

John DeWitt

Chartermaster