

“SCAMIT-LIKE” FISH GROUP

03 SEPTEMBER 2009, SCCWRP

Attendance: Bill Power, Fred Stern, Chase McDonald (LACSD); Jeff Armstrong, Mike Mengel (OCSD); Ken Schiff, Steve Weisberg, Valerie Roco-Rands (SCCWRP); Jim Mann, Karen Weisenbacher (ABC Labs); Jonathan Williams (Occidental College); Adriano Feit, Ross Duggan (CSD); Eric Miller, Terra Duvall (MBC); Bill Isham (Weston Solutions); Jim Allen (Contractor).

Meeting Summary:

Discussions ensued regarding the need and establishment of a SCAMIT-like organization dedicated to fish. This organization will be voluntary and open to all fish taxonomist. It was decided that quarterly meetings would be schedule for the first week of the month following the trawl surveys. SCCRWP has graciously offered to host the meetings although they will not be connected. There was no formal discussion of officers or dues at this time. The mission of this organization will be three-fold:

1. Education and training
2. Systematics
3. As a resource for life history and ecology

Products would include:

Education

- Publication
- Cross training cruises
- Publication reference collection
- Voucher collection
- Taxonomic workshops

Systematics

- New keys
- Field guides
- Photo voucher collection
- Character traits table/guide

As a resource for life history and ecology

- Providing specimens
 - Academia

- Special studies
- Grants

The next meeting is schedule on 02 December 2009. Fred Stern will be presenting the LACSD Fish Guide. He will be responsible for the organization's photo voucher collection. Fred, Mike Mengel, and Ken Schiff got tasked with establishing photo techniques and layouts to be used by all agencies for future documentation.

Bill Power will be giving a taxonomic workshop on eelpouts at the March 2010 meeting, hopefully with photo documentation. He hopes to present keys and visual clues on how to identify different species of eelpouts and distinguishing them from other similar species (i.e. cuskeels).