

**(SCAITE LOGO)**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF**  
**ICHTHYOLOGICAL TAXONOMISTS AND ECOLOGISTS**

**04 June 2012, SCCWRP**

**Attendance:** Julianne Passarelli, Alfonso Montiel, Jeff Landesman (CMA); Bill Power, Fred Stern, Terra Duvall (LACSD); Mike Mengel (OCSD); Jim Rounds, Greg Lyon (CLA - Hyperion); Robin Gartman, Greg Welch, Adriano Feit, Andrew Davenport, Geoff Daly (CSD); Dario Diehl, Shelly Moore (SCCWRP); Danny Heilprin, Todd Chapman (Ecorp Consulting); Jim Mann (ABC Labs); Karen Martin (Pepperdine); Milton Love (UCSB); Rick Feeney (LACM); Kelley Voss, Erica Jarvis (DFG); Kristy Forsgren (CSUF).

**Meeting Summary:**

Dr. Juli Passarelli opened the meeting by introducing the guest speaker, Dr. Kristy Forsgren from CSU Fullerton, who gave a presentation on pipefishes of southern California. The described characteristics of the animals that Kristy discussed are as follow:

Family Gasterosteidae

Tubesnout – *Aulorhynchus flavidus*

- location – nearshore
- color variation – brown on green with white flecking
- eggs found on vegetation

Threespine stickleback – *Gasterosteus aculeatus*

- location – marine, freshwater, brackish water
- 4 inch maximum size
- males turn bright red on underside during breeding

Family Syngnathidae

52 genera, 233 species in southern California area; suction feeders with longer snout and smaller mouth; criteria for identification: dorsal soft rays, body rings, tail rings, snout to head height ratio (longer the snout, smaller the mouth).

Pacific seahorse – *Hippocampus ingens*

- location – Pt. Conception to Chile; offshore to 10 m; found on reefs, vegetation, and gorgonians
- color variation – brown, black, red, yellow, orange, green; with or without mottling, bands, or spots
- length to 30.5 cm, dorsal soft ray 18-21, body rings 11-13, tail rings 36-40
- males carry between 400-1600 eggs with a 14 day gestation

Snubnose pipefish – *Cosmocampus arctus*

- location – northern California to Mazatlan; nearshore, shallow bays and reefs; found in eelgrass and algae
- color variation – light brown with 2 rows of spots (preserved specimens without spots)
- length to 30 cm, dorsal soft ray 20-23, body rings 15, tail rings 39
- snout length (tip of snout to eye) to head height (behind the eye) ratio 0.6 : 0.3 cm

Barred pipefish – *Syngnathus auliscus*

- location – Pt. Conception to Peru; intertidal to 20 m, bays and lagoons
- coloration – brown, green; lighter in color than snubnose pipefish
- length to 19 cm, dorsal soft ray 26-34, body rings 14-15, tail rings 35-38
- snout length to head height ratio 0.6 : 0.25 cm
- eggs under tail with up to 3 broods at a time

Kelp pipefish – *Syngnathus californiensis*

- location – Bodega Bay to southern Baja; found in kelp beds to 15m, eelgrass
- coloration – green to brown with mottling
- length to 50 cm, dorsal soft ray 36-47, body rings 17-22, tail rings 44-50
- snout length to head height ratio 2.3 : 0.5 cm; long compressed snout
- has brood pouch

Bay pipefish – *Syngnathus leptorhynchus*

- location – Sitka, Alaska to Baja California; bays and estuaries; found in eelgrass

- coloration – pale olive green to dark green to brown
- length to 33 cm, dorsal soft ray 28-44, body rings 17-20, tail rings 36-46; deeper more robust body than kelp pipefish (triangular shaped)
- snout length to head height ratio 1.3 : 0.36 cm; rounder snout than kelp pipefish

Chocolate pipefish – *Syngnathus euchrous*

- location – Redondo Beach to central Baja; eelgrass to offshore in vegetation
- coloration – brown to olive green
- length to 25 cm, body rings 17-18, tail rings 42-44; body not as deep as bay pipefish
- snout length to head height ratio 1.1 : 0.4 cm

Barcheek pipefish – *Syngnathus exilis*

- location – Half Moon Bay to Baja; in drift algae on sandy beaches;
- 2 bars on operculum (underside of fish not by eye, difficult to see, this is different than what has previously been used by many in the SC Bight)
- Coloration – brown to olive green
- length to 25 cm, dorsal soft ray 26-34, body rings 39-40, tail rings 28-30
- snout length to head height ratio 1.5 : 0.4 cm

After the presentation, there was time to look at a variety of pipefishes including all of the species present from collections and some brought from attendees.

The latter portion of the meeting was used to discuss SCAITE business and make announcements.

1. SCAITE logo:

Evie Templeton from CMA will continue to refine the concept with suggested California fish; CA scorpionfish, CA skate.

2. SCAITE website:

The domain was purchased by Danny and Shelly Moore is working on content. Types of items that should be put on the website was discussed; meetings, presentations, keys, species lists, pictures, links.

Bight '13 training/workshop: The Bight '13 kickoff meeting is September 24<sup>th</sup> and this training idea will be revisited after that meeting. Interagency calibration trawls and other training will likely occur in March 2013.

Miller and Lea revision: Plans are still in the works for the revision, along with possible funding from CMA friends. DFG employees at the meeting will check with Supervisors and see what assistance DFG could provide. Juli has approval from DFG to proceed with revision. Members are requested to bring copies of annotated pages from Miller and Lea to the next meeting to help compile a "complete and updated" version of the book. Also be prepared to talk about what Families need new keys and what drawings need to be updated or added.