

CALIFORNIA-OREGON COOPERATIVE CRAB STUDY

The California Department of Fish and Game and the Oregon Fish Commission tagged and released 901 legal crabs (Cancer magister) off northern California and southern Oregon during November and December, 1962. The objectives of the cooperative tagging experiment are to obtain additional information on the population structures, migrations and mortalities of crabs in this important area.

In Pelican Bay, between Brookings, Oregon and Lake Earl, California, 825 crabs were marked and released in 10 to 17 fathom depths. Seventy-five crabs were released in 13 fathoms and one in 22 fathoms off the Klamath River.

We have received 408 (45.2%) of the 901 tags as of February 1, 1963. Among these were 329 recoveries with information as to location of capture and 79 tags without usable information. The large percentage of returns during only two months of fishing is evidence of a high exploitation rate and a consequent high fishing mortality rate.

Of the 825 crabs released in Pelican Bay, 316 were returned with usable information. The majority (306) were recaptured near release areas in the bay. Ten traveled considerable distances. One moved 12 miles to Thomas Creek, north of Cape Ferrelo, Oregon. Three traveled nine miles to Endert's Beach near Crescent City. Two recoveries came from Redding Rock, 36 miles away. Two were recaptured 45 miles from the release site at Big Lagoon (Figure 1).

Thirteen of the 76 crabs released off the Klamath River were recovered.

Significant movements were demonstrated by a recovery at Endert's Beach, seven off Redding Rock and three returns off Big Lagoon (Figure 1). These returns demonstrate respective movements of 14, 10 and 15 miles.

Inshore movements of crabs were demonstrated by 294 (89%) of the 329 returns with catch information. Twenty (6%) moved offshore to deeper water while there were no depth changes for 15 (5%) returns.

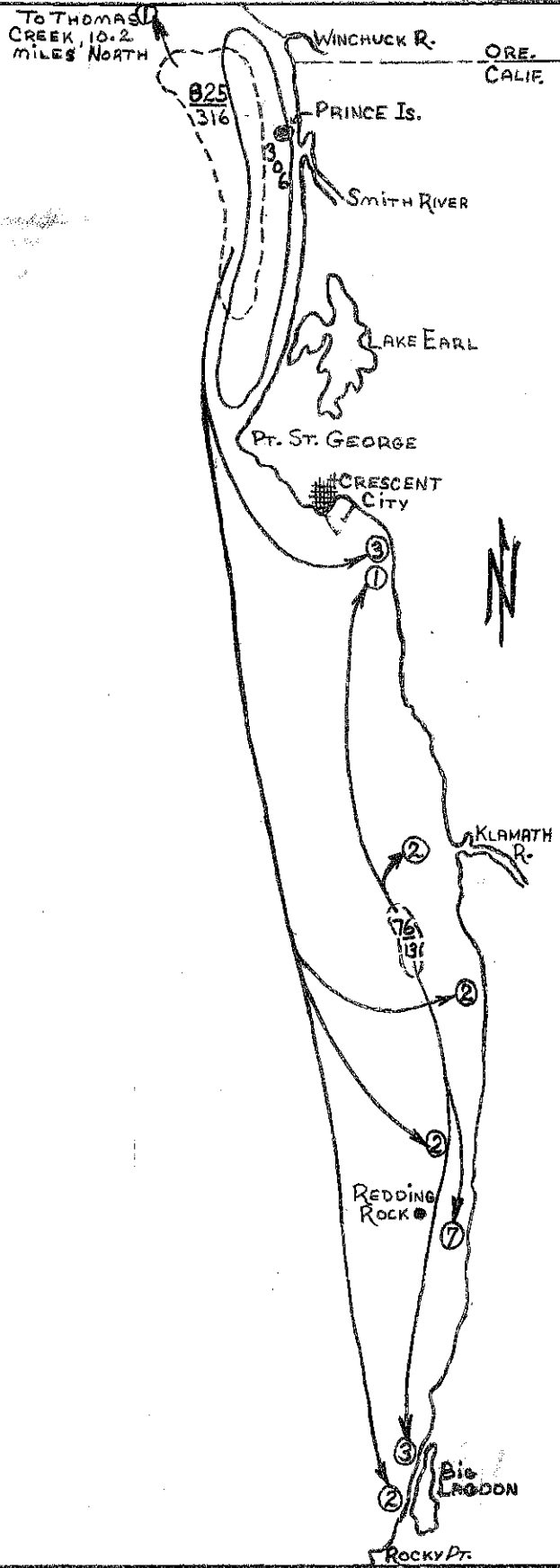
The cooperation of fishermen, dealers and other individuals in returning tags is acknowledged and deeply appreciated. Detailed information on any tag or tags will be furnished the finder upon request.

Sincerely,



Calif. Department of Fish & Game
127 G Street
Eureka, California

Oregon Fish Commission
250 S.W. Bay Blvd.
Newport, Oregon

**CALIFORNIA-OREGON
COOPERATIVE TAGGING STUDY**
RECOVERIES TO FEBRUARY 1, 1963.



LEGEND

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 RELEASE AREAS SHOWING
NUMBER TAGGED OVER
NUMBER RETURNED
- 
 RECOVERY AREAS
SHOWING NUMBER
OF RECOVERIES