

In the fall of 2012, a fisheries conservation research project was implemented by Dr. Brice Semmens and graduate student Lyall Bellquist of Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The goal of this project is to work in partnership with the local community (e.g., the California Department of Fish and Game, the San Diego Oceans Foundation, the San Diego Lifeguards in La Jolla, and the recreational fishing community) to measure the current status of resident fish populations, which will help us ensure the long-term health of our local communities of marine species.

To accomplish the fish population assessments, a large-scale tag-and-release effort is being conducted from the US-Mexico border north to Los Angeles. One of the sites for the project is the La Jolla coastal area, both inside and outside the marine reserves. The field component of the project involves cooperation with local sport fishing vessel operators and recreational anglers to help catch, tag, and release fishes at each research site. All of the fish are tagged with small external ID tags (white in color, but often covered with a layer of brown algae), and some of them are fitted with small acoustic transmitters. The transmitters are detected by an array of underwater acoustic receivers that are attached to subsurface moorings throughout the La Jolla kelp forest (two of these moorings are located in La Jolla Cove). This allows us to continuously measure movement patterns and population size of fishes in virtually the entire coastal La Jolla area from north Pacific Beach to La Jolla Shores, which is extremely important given that so many people value the health of the marine ecosystem in this region. The project is funded through June 2014, but we hope to raise additional funds to create a long-term research initiative that involves broader-scale public participation and improved monitoring of the health of our local marine ecosystem. We sincerely appreciate all the support we have received from the local community!

For additional information, please visit our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/pages/Coastal-Angler-Tagging-Cooperative](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Coastal-Angler-Tagging-Cooperative)

as well as our website: [www.cooperativefishtagging.org](http://www.cooperativefishtagging.org)

We also have a website (still in development) dedicated specifically to the La Jolla Acoustic Array: [www.LaJollaArray.org](http://www.LaJollaArray.org)