

Garibaldi (*Hypsypops rubicundus*)

Status of the Population:

There has never been any significant sport fishery for garibaldi (Oliphant et al. 1990). During the 1990s a commercial aquarium trade developed for juvenile garibaldi. At its peak, over 800 pounds were recorded. Although not substantial in terms of weight, because the fish were juveniles, these landings represented a large number of individuals. Since most of this take focused on one area, Catalina Island, there was concern for local depletion. In 1995 the California Legislature designated the Garibaldi as the Official State Marine Fish and banned any further commercial take. Garibaldi populations have rebounded from the local effects of commercial take and are in good condition throughout their range in southern California.

Home Range/Migratory Patterns:

Garibaldi range from Monterey Bay to Guadalupe Island, Baja California. In California they are rare above Point Conception, but larvae and juveniles are transported to the north during El Niño events. They are very territorial on rocky reefs, ranging from shallow sub-tidal to a depth of 95 feet (Love, 1991). Males build and defend nests, attending the eggs until they hatch. An individual may utilize the same nest site for many years.

Current Regulations:

No commercial or recreational take is allowed.

How MPAs May Help:

Since garibaldi is a protected species throughout California, adults of all sizes are already common. Accordingly, no significant population benefits can be expected to result from the full range of size classes afforded by the establishment of reserves. However, since such reserves would protect other exploited species as well, the ecosystem functions of garibaldi might change. Similarly, reserves would protect habitats valuable to garibaldi from a variety of potential fishing activity related impacts. Garibaldi are territorial and do not appear to migrate. Protection in MPAs would not be expected to provide for spillover of adult fish and it is likely that garibaldi are already at maximum densities. Some larval transport to distant areas would be expected, however this would not be expected to have significant impacts on populations as the garibaldi is already protected and at good population levels.