

Fishing Report

Reporting period: January 24 through February 24, 2025.

Notes: Missing dates normally are due to no information received for that date due to weather conditions. Please send information on: Boat name, area fished, and species caught. Photos are especially appreciated, along with details on fishing technique (trolling, jigging, bait fishing), type and color of lures, or bait used, and water conditions. My email is: (lyncurt0)@gmail.com”.

2/1/2025 I also heard an interesting report of Orcas being in seen in the Turner area, so keep your eyes open.

2/8/2025 EL SUENO traveled south to San Pedro Matir for a catch of nice Yellowtail trolling X Raps, probably 30s.

2/12/2025 FIREFOX caught Yellowtail at Turner jigging fast retrieve.

2/14/2025 CAPTAIN JACK caught limits of Cortez Halibut/flounder trolling in his raft off Red Rock beach in 20 to 35 feet of water.

2/17/2025 ESCAPE made the trip to Isla San Pedro Matir for a great catch of Grouper and Sardinera/Brownies/Cabrilla.

FIREFOX did some fast "retrieve" jigging at Turner for a good catch of Yellowtail.

2/18/2025 ESCAPE caught Yellowtail at Turner.

2/20/2025 CAPTAIN JACK had a great day at the south end of Turner for White Sea Bass, Yellowtail, Goldies, and Salmon/Pacific White Fish.

HILLBILLY YACHT fished the Turner area trolling up a nice Grouper. ESCAPE fished the Pedro Matir area, catching Grouper, Sardinera, and Goldies.

FIREFOX caught White Sea Bass, Yellowtail, and Goldies at Isla Turner. NIGHTWINGS tried Turner and Dead Man for a few decent Goldies and Rockies, and Punto Colorado Risco for more Goldies, a Pinta/Pinto Bass, and a healthy Scorpion Fish (released, and very cautiously).

DAKOTA and MAYFLOWER also fished the Turner area for Goldies and Yellowtail.

UPDATE ON SANTA ROSA/CHRISTMAS TREE: Still nothing firm or for sure, but it sounds like the Seri officials are going to charge a daily fee of \$500MX per car for entry. “People are saying” that the Sonoran government may be negotiating for cut rates for longer periods of time permits, i.e. weekly, monthly, or yearly. (?) They may charge a different rate per person, but I am only hearing rumors. Apparently fencing and a gate has been put up, but the last time I was there was in December 2024, and it was open then. I have been unable to confirm any official facts on this.

Special Fishing Alert: White Sea Bass have been being reported caught over the last few weeks, much earlier than I ever remember in the past. So it might be a good time to review fishing techniques for those who have not caught one. These are suggestions for what we have used in the past, but this year, starting in December, a few were caught by trolling and in unusual locations, such as in the slot area between Turner and Tiburon.

Typical Strategy: Drift fishing over the south end of Turner, starting at about 50 feet depth and drifting out to around 210 feet depths. Then move back to over the reef or even out past the reef to begin at around 200 feet depth and drift across again. It seems like most of my strikes came on the down current side of the reef itself. Drop your jig down to the bottom, reel up a couple of turns and jig the lure up dropping back down in long strokes as you drift. If nothing hits after a few drops, try retrieving it up ten or so higher and repeat the up and down drops. This is worth trying up to around 25 feet from the bottom. Of course, the speed of the drift must be considered, as you want to be continually moving out over new bottom. Some fishermen cast out from the boat as they drift, retrieving the lure while raising and dropping it. If you need to reel in to reposition, go ahead and do a fast retrieve in since you might pick up a Yellowtail.

Lures: The best lures have mainly included larger heavy jigs such as Salas, Tady, Sumo, and Hopkins from 6X Junior (5oz), 6X, 7X, and P68s (10-11oz). A variety of colors can work, including Chrome, White, Blue and White, Blue and Chrome, Blue and White Mackerel, Angry Squid, and Glow/Glow Squid, or Scrambled Egg. A trailer of bait, especially squid or a small Croaker fish could help.

Landing: These fish have notoriously “soft” mouths, so do not pressure them too much. Their first reaction is to make a very strong first run, so turning their head is critical. After that run it is just a tough haul in but they rarely make a big last run at the boat (like Yellowtail).

Finally: Please be aware that there are Totuava fish out there in the same locations. They are a larger (up to 300 pounds) member of the “croaker” family of marine fish, but the important thing to be aware of is that the Totuava are an endangered and protected species and should be released immediately. The easiest way to differentiate them is to look at the caudal (tail) fin, the White Sea Bass has a concave shaped tail while the Totuava has a convex shape. I would google the fish for pictures to tell them apart. The attached photos are all White Sea Bass.

