Sta. No. H48-208

off Estero Bay, at

Locality: California: "Church Rock" (rocky bank), 6 miles (naut.) off Morro Rock, San Luis Obispo Co. Course 240° magnetic from Morro Bay entrance

Lat. 35° 20' 40"N.; Long. 120° 59' 00"W. (USC & GS chart 5387, 1948)

Water: clear, salt

Vegetation: presumably none

Bottom: rocky (grading rapidly out to mud) Temp.:

Shore: sand beach Current:

Distance from shore: 6 naut. miles Tide:

Depth of capture: bottom Depth of water: ab. 300-400 feet

Method of capture: set lines Examined in markets at Morro Bay by C.H.

Collected by: Mr. & Mrs. Paul Petty ~~(Specimen)~~ and C. L. Abbey Date: VII: 23: 1948

Orig. preserv.: ~~Kept for~~ Not preserved Time:

Tagged with field no.

Petty & Abbey are fishermen and (separate) fish market men of Morro Bay. Cooperative and interested.

Abbey locates rock about 32 fathom sounding on Chart 5387, though he has not found less than about 300 feet. He comes onto "rock" when Lion Rock shows up over Pt. Buchon and is slipping off into deeper water & mud bottom when rock SE of Lion Rock also shows up.

"Rock" supposedly named for fisherman discoverer (Abbey)

Petty first fished bank in 1939. Fishing was good then, he says, as catches of 500-600 lbs. were not uncommon. Last year he started again, and his best catch was 200 lbs. Very little caught this year, by either Abbey or Petty.

Fish brought in VII: 23:

Sebastodes rosaceus: "deep-water red ~~rock~~ cod" Petty insists this fish ["miniatus"] is different from "inshore red cod" caught in about 40-60 ft.

(over) (H 48-208 con.)

near shore. He brought out the 2 to compare. The ones from Church Rock were pop-eyed, The others not. The inshore ones are heavy, round-bellied, The offshore ones are slender & weigh less at same length. Color varies but inshore ones becomes more intense red (Patty). Offshore form bites less hard and taps line but once. The 2 specimens being compared differed in that the shallow water one had a broader, more convex interorbital.

Sebastodes roseus: "bait theef". Always spawns at small size. Several.

S. constellatus; not known by special name, but recognized as distinct. White peritoneum noted. Several.

S. chlorostictus: Abbey calls this "chucklehead," but Mr. & Mrs. Petty think "oldtimers" applys name to another sp., with steep profile. Abbey speaks of its iodine lining, thinking that the dark peritoneum gives the fish an iodine flavor! "Spawn always dark" (so in one specimen). (see below).

S. elongatus: "bait thief" One (cleaned).

Petty reports having caught at "Church Rock" als.

"Ratfish" [Hydrolagus colliei]

"Blackbass" [likely Sebastodes serranoides] at surface, last year.

"Barberpole" with white & red bands has been caught occasionally [doubtless S. rubrivinctus].

S. chlorostictus (con.): 2 at hand said by Petty to be of maximum size for species, 17 inches overall. Show no approach to S. eos. Head remains slender & rakish. No scales on mandible. General color light reddish. Green spots remain small & discrete, and scarcely extend onto fins. Lateral line in a pinker streak.