

**REVIEW OF THE PELAGIC WET-FISHERIES FOR 1975**

Total commercial landings of pelagic species reached a record high in 1975 when 190,075 short tons were landed (Table 1). The major contribution was again the anchovy, comprising 83% of the total. The lower landing of figures for 1974 reflected the late start made by the anchovy fishermen during the 1974-75 season. Landings of Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel were minimal, due to the compliance by fishermen with the moratoria on these species. Jack mackerel landings were slightly up from 1974 although prices were lower in 1975. Market squid landings dropped considerably due to unavailability of the animals in Monterey Bay. Total landings of Pacific herring were only about half of those in 1974. This difference was due to the changing of harvest regulations in Tomales and San Francisco Bays.

**TABLE 1**  
**Landings of Pelagic Wet Fishes in California in Short Tons 1964-75**

Year	Sardine	Anchovy	Pacific Mackerel	Jack Mackerel	Herring	Market Squid	Total
1964	6,569	2,488	13,414	44,846	175	8,217	75,709
1965	962	2,866	3,525	33,333	258	9,310	50,254
1966	439	31,140	2,315	20,431	121	9,512	63,958
1967	74	34,805	583	19,090	136	9,801	64,489
1968	62	15,538	1,567	27,834	179	12,466	57,646
1969	53	67,639	1,179	25,961	85	10,390	105,307
1970	221	96,243	311	23,873	158	12,295	133,101
1971	149	44,853	78	29,941	120	15,756	90,947
1972	186	69,101	54	25,559	63	10,030	104,993
1973	76	131,919	28	10,308	1,410	6,031	149,772
1974	7	82,585	67	12,729	2,630	14,452	112,470
1975	3	158,510	144	18,390	1,217	11,811	190,075

**Northern Anchovy**

The 1974-75 anchovy season began in the northern area on August 1, with a price to the fisherman of \$42.50 per ton, which dropped to \$30.25 per ton at season's end. The Monterey-based fleet consisted of 15 boats, two of which were purse seiners; and the remaining, lampara boats. Fishing effort was moderate until March when prices fell and unfavorable weather prevailed. The final landings totaled 6,669 tons.

The San Pedro-based fleet did not begin fishing until November when the price dispute with the canneries was resolved, although Port Hueneme boats fished as soon as the season opened on September 15. The San Pedro fleet numbered 38; of these, three were lampara and the rest purse seiners. Fishing effort was restrained by daily limits imposed by the canneries, although the quota of 100,000 tons was filled by May 2, when the Fish and Game Commission allowed an additional 15,000 tons with no additional limitations or provisions. At the conclusion of the season, the southern area fishermen caught 9,918 tons of the additional allowed 15,000 tons. The combined total for the two areas amounted to 116,587 tons of anchovies (Table 2).

**TABLE 2**  
**Anchovy Landings for Reduction in the Southern and Northern Permit Areas 1965-66 through 1975-76 in Short Tons**

Season	Southern Permit Area	Northern Permit Area	Totals
1965-66 <sup>A</sup>	16,468	375	16,843
1966-67 <sup>B</sup>	29,589	8,021	37,610
1967-68 <sup>C</sup>	852	5,651	6,503
1968-69 <sup>D</sup>	25,314	2,736	28,050
1969-70	81,453	2,020	83,473
1970-71	80,095	657	80,752
1971-72	52,052	1,374	53,426
1972-73	73,167	2,352	75,519
1973-74 <sup>C</sup>	109,207	11,380	120,587
1974-75 <sup>E</sup>	109,918	6,669	116,587
1975-76 <sup>F</sup>	135,615	5,295	140,906

A = November 12, 1965 through April 30, 1966.  
 B = October 1, 1966 through April 30, 1967.  
 C = September 15, 1967 through May 15, 1968.  
 D = August 1 through May 15.  
 E = August 1 through April 30 in southern permit area.  
 F = August 1, 1975 through May 15, 1976.

Age analysis of the sampled catch indicated an unusually high percentage (9.6%) of fish from the 1970 year-class (age group IV). This year-class contributed significantly to catch during the 1971-72, 1972-73, and 1973-74 seasons. The dominant year-class for the 1974-75 season was the 1972 year-class (age group II), consisting of nearly 40% of the sampled catch.

The 1975-76 season opened in the north with moderate fishing effort. The Monterey fleet numbered 5 purse seiners and 2 lampara boats. Initial anchovy price was quoted at \$28 per ton. Final landings totaled 5,291 tons.

The San Pedro-based fleet numbered 50 boats consisting of 7 lampara and 43 purse seiners. The increase in boats reflects a serious interest in the anchovy fishery. The southern area fishermen began fishing promptly with the price established at \$30 per ton. Considerable fishing effort was expended during the fall although daily limits were imposed. Fishing locations shifted from San Pedro Channel to waters off Ventura during November. Large concentrations of anchovies were observed in this area during an earlier acoustic survey conducted by the ALASKA. Final southern area landings totaled a record 135,615 tons (Table 2).

**Pacific Sardine**

The 1974 moratorium on Pacific sardine limited landings to 7 tons in 1974 and 3 tons during 1975. These landings allowed by law, represent an incidental catch in mixed loads. All indications imply the sardine population is still in a depressed state.

**Pacific Mackerel**

Compliance of the fishermen to the 1972 Pacific mackerel moratorium resulted in total landings of 67 tons and 144 tons during 1974 and 1975 respectively.

Presently, increased numbers of Pacific mackerel appeared in jack mackerel loads. The fishermen are allowed up to 18% by weight as incidental catch. These observations and others imply an increasing population of Pacific mackerel.

### *Jack Mackerel*

Jack mackerel landings for 1974 remained below average, totaling 12,729 tons. A possible cause for the

TABLE 3  
Commercial Landings of Jack Mackerel in California  
in Tons 1963-75

Year	Annual landings	Mean annual landings
1963	47,721	
1964	44,846	46,284 (1963-64)
1965	33,333	41,967 (1963-65)
1966	20,431	36,583 (1963-66)
1967	19,090	33,084 (1963-67)
1968	27,834	32,209 (1963-68)
1969	25,961	31,317 (1963-69)
1970	23,873	30,386 (1963-70)
1971	29,941	30,337 (1963-71)
1972	25,559	29,589 (1963-72)
1973	10,308	28,082 (1963-73)
1974	12,729	26,802 (1963-74)
1975	18,390	26,155 (1963-75)

decline is the emphasis towards the more profitable bluefin tuna and bonito. Fishing areas centered near San Clemente Island and Cortes Bank. Jack mackerel price stabilized at \$115 per ton in 1974, but dropped to \$85 in 1975.

The 1975 landing reached 18,390 tons with the majority of the total being caught in the last 5 months (Table 3). Availability of the fish and increased cannery orders accounted for this renewed interest. Fishing areas included Santa Catalina Island, San Clemente Island and Cortes Bank.

### *Market Squid*

Market squid landings during 1974 reached 14,452 tons but fell to 11,811 tons in 1975. This decrease was the result of low landings in the Monterey area. Squid prices ranged from \$40 to \$200 per ton during both years with the common price ranging between \$60 to \$80 per ton.

### *Pacific Herring*

During 1974, herring landings totaled 2,630 tons while 1975 landings amounted to 1,217 tons. The decrease in catch was due to a change in harvest regulations in Tomales and San Francisco Bays.

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