

4. COMMERCIAL FISHING FLEET

Commercial fishing boats are registered with the California Division of Fish and Game by the license season which is April 1st through the following March 31st. The total figures showing the number of boats registered each season do not fully explain the changes that have occurred in the fleet. In order to contrast small and large boats in the accompanying table the boats are divided into those under 40 feet in length and those 40 feet and over.

<i>Season</i>	<i>Under 40 feet</i>	<i>40 feet and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
1939-1940	2253	857	3110
1940-1941	2510	944	3454
1941-1942	2331	871	3202
1942-1943	2264	701	2965
1943-1944	2929	797	3726
1944-1945	2852	930	3782

The 1943-1944 increase of 665 small boats over the previous season probably was due largely to the increased registration of pleasure and sport fishing boats. The small boat totals for the last two seasons are abnormally high and do not represent the boats of this class that were actively engaged in full time commercial fishing.

The registration of large fishing boats, as contrasted with boats under 40 feet, represents active units of the fishing fleet. The numbers registered during the last two seasons show an increase over the early war years and almost equal the numbers registered during the prewar seasons. In the first years of the war roughly 95 purse seine boats and 38 tuna vessels were taken over by our armed services. When the government small boat building program began to catch up with our war needs, the fishing vessels which had been used by the government as substitutes were gradually relinquished to their original owners. The increase in numbers of the large boats registered during the last two seasons may be accounted for by the return of these vessels to commercial fishing together with the construction of new boats during the war period and the transfer of some boats to this State from Washington and Oregon.

TABLE 25
COMMERCIAL FISHING FLEET—1943-1944

Region of home port	Number of boats, grouped by length					Total number of boats for each region
	Up to 24 feet	25 to 39 feet	40 to 64 feet	65 to 84 feet	85 feet and over	
Eureka	23	210	53	-----	-----	286
Sacramento	108	140	4	-----	-----	252
San Francisco	43	399	77	22	2	543
Monterey	119	187	23	30	-----	359
Santa Barbara	31	73	25	-----	-----	129
Los Angeles	382	950	238	94	14	1,678
San Diego	81	178	78	40	27	404
Alaska, Washington and Oregon ..	-----	5	15	51	4	75
Total number of boats	787	2,142	513	237	47	3,726

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