

5. COMMERCIAL FISHING FLEET

During 1939 and early 1940 there was a noticeable increase in the number of large boats being built and registered to enter the California fishing fleet. Most of these were purse seine vessels and alarm was felt because of the possible effect of this added fishing effort on the sardine and mackerel fisheries. But the 1940–1941 boat census shows no increase in the number of these larger boats actually engaged in fishing as the United States Navy bought many of the new sturdy purse seiners and Mexico also came into the market for boats of this type, all to be used in coast defense work. The British Government also purchased a number of the fast taxi-type craft from the west coast.

The increase of 350 boats in the 1940–1941 registration over the previous year is most noticeable in the group between 25 feet and 39 feet long. This is due to the new development in the shark fishery, intensive mackerel fishing and the steady development of the marine sport fishery. Since the party boats sell their excess catches and the commercial boats occasionally take out sport fishermen and all exploit the same species, the two groups actually comprise one commercial fleet. During 1940, 602 party boat permits were issued.—*Geraldine Conner*.

TABLE 12
COMMERCIAL FISHING FLEET, 1940-1941 *

Region of home port	Number of boats, grouped by length					Total number of boats from each region
	Up to 24 feet	25 to 39 feet	40 to 64 feet	65 to 84 feet	85 feet and over	
Eureka.....	12	189	21			222
Sacramento.....	98	156	5	1		260
San Francisco.....	43	451	68	22	6	590
Monterey.....	99	196	45	68	4	412
Santa Barbara.....	66	106	32	1		205
Los Angeles.....	257	642	233	109	39	1,280
San Diego.....	46	113	77	26	50	312
Alaska, Washington and Oregon..	2	34	58	70	9	173
Total number of boats.....	623	1,887	539	297	108	3,454

* Market fishermen's license year is April 1 of one year to March 31 of the following year.

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