

been made in the catch record for this loss of weight. A reasonably accurate approximation of the total poundage of fish caught can be reached by adding 40 percent to the recorded totals beginning with 1933 to cover the loss of weight in cleaning and beheading.—*John E. Fitch.*

Reference (see page 210): 133.

## 2.34. WHITE SEA BASS

The California white sea bass, *Cynoscion nobilis*, ranges from Alaska south to the Gulf of California. However, the commercial range of this species can be defined as lying between Tomales Bay in Northern California and Magdalena Bay, Lower California. From San Diego southward a small percentage of the catch includes a very closely related species, the shortfin sea bass, *Cynoscion parvipinnis*. The two species are so much alike they are seldom separated in the catch by the markets and therefore both have been treated as a single species in this report. Probably 99 percent is actually *Cynoscion nobilis* the true white sea bass. The young of the two species of sea bass have several dark cross bars on the body and are sometimes erroneously called seatrout.

**TABLE 15**  
**SHORTFIN SEA BASS**  
**Pounds**

1932.....	2,487	1938.....	2,259
1934.....	438	1939.....	2,600
1935.....	3,350	1940.....	2,544
1936.....	156	1941.....	2,305
1937.....	1,191	1945.....	375

*TABLE 15*  
*SHORTFIN SEA BASS*  
*Pounds*

Both of these species are members of the croaker family, which includes much sought after food fish on both coasts of North America such as the croakers, corbina and totuava on the Pacific Coast and the weakfish and drum of the Atlantic Coast.

The white sea bass, usually found in and around kelp beds, is a schooling fish and quite voracious in its feeding habits. It is a valuable market fish and rated second only to albacore in general popularity as a sport fish in Southern California. The average weight of this species ranges between 15 and 20 pounds, though it has been recorded up to 80 pounds and fish up to 60 pounds are not too uncommon.

Prior to 1925 over half the catch was made by purse seines and other round haul nets; with increasing scarcity of white sea bass the round haul netters gradually turned to other fisheries and in 1940 were declared illegal. For a couple of years after World War II a new fishery for white sea bass sprang up at Pismo Beach, California. It entailed the use of a small monoplane and surplus army DUKWs carrying beach seines. The plane would fly low over the surf until a school of white sea bass was spotted feeding in shallow water. A radio call would inform the DUKW operator who would enter the surf, set the beach seine parallel to shore beyond the school of sea bass and then return to shore. The two ends of the net would be quickly pulled ashore with winches leaving the sea bass trapped in the remaining bag, and eventually the whole school would be landed as the net was beached. This method accounted for a