

**TABLE 28**  
**WHALES LANDED IN CALIFORNIA**  
**July 12-November 1, 1947**

	Number		Average	
	Male	Female	Length, feet	Weight, tons
Finback ( <i>Balaenoptera velifera</i> ).....	7	10	63	54
Humpback ( <i>Megaptera versabilis</i> ).....	5	8	43	42
Sei or Japanese ( <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> ).....	.....	3	58	47
Sperm ( <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> ).....	5	.....	45	36

**May 2-November 1, 1948**

Finback.....	12	1	61	48
Humpback.....	.....	5	44	41
Sperm.....	10	.....	48	42

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**WHALES LANDED IN CALIFORNIA**

loss of the free oils which run in small streams from the blubber as it is removed from the carcass.

The process varies slightly in the case of sperm whales. A hole is cut in the top of the skull and the pure spermaceti, the finest of all oils, is bailed from a reservoir at the back of the head. Sperm whales have been landed at Fields Landing which contained as much as 200 gallons of pure spermaceti. The amount varies with the size and age of the animal. Spermaceti has a waxy consistency when taken from the whale. It becomes fluid at a low temperature. Sperm whale oil must be processed and stored separately as it does not mix with other whale oils.

After refining, whale oil is suitable for any of the purposes for which vegetable and other animal oils are used. It is manufactured into salad and cooking oils and oleomargarine. Sperm oil is noted for its fine qualities as a tenacious and anticorrosive lubricant because it does not congeal with cold or break down under heat; it leaves no gum upon evaporation. Many of the better firearm lubricants and rust preventives have a sperm oil base. In the manufacture of fine cosmetics, spermaceti is the substantial ingredient of subtle compounds alleged to bring the bloom of youth to the cheeks of women from 18 to 80.

The dark, coarse meat is next removed and stored. The meat has a strong odor when raw but is reported to be quite palatable and very tender when properly prepared for human food. It is purchased in quantities by domestic fur farmers and is used in the manufacture of dog and cat food and has had a good market in lieu of the currently higher priced feeds.

The viscera and other nonsalable parts of the meat and the huge bones of the skeleton are reduced to meal for poultry feed and fertilizer. The stomach content is sometimes reduced, but because of its extremely offensive odor this practice has been discontinued lately and this material is used in its raw state as fertilizer by the neighboring farmers.

Approaching Fields Landing the motorist is informed of attractions ahead by the odor and by signs which read "See a Real Whale." Despite the fact that ambergris, derived from whales, is an ingredient of costly perfumes, it was necessary to build a special platform for spectators on the seaward side of the plant where a brisk wind makes it tenable. For an admission fee the visitor may view the entire butchering operation while