

TABLE 3
Party Boat Rockfish Catch Compared With Total Party Boat Catch

| Year | Number | | Percent |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | Total catch ¹ | Rockfish | |
| 1936..... | 1,313,473 | 204,627 | 15.58 |
| 1937..... | 1,344,139 | 243,125 | 18.09 |
| 1938..... | 1,281,608 | 239,312 | 18.67 |
| 1939..... | 1,724,204 | 209,453 | 12.15 |
| 1940..... | 1,872,838 | 301,355 | 16.09 |
| 1941-1946..... | No available records | | |
| 1947..... | 2,070,432 | 193,377 | 9.34 |
| 1948..... | 2,110,019 | 410,271 | 19.44 |
| 1949..... | 2,339,794 | 570,637 | 24.39 |
| 1950..... | 2,190,413 | 679,164 | 31.01 |
| 1951..... | 2,350,644 | 721,808 | 30.71 |
| 1952..... | 2,305,875 | 706,004 | 30.62 |
| 1953..... | 2,280,158 | 696,480 | 30.55 |
| 1954..... | 3,274,537 | 1,149,367 | 35.10 |
| 1955..... | 3,113,883 | 1,737,707 | 55.81 |
| 1956..... | 3,262,995 | 2,036,708 | 62.42 |

¹ Includes rockfish.

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The question arises, what caused this tremendous increase in sport landings? There are a number of causes. Traditionally important game and food fishes off Southern California have not been plentiful in recent years. The number of anglers has increased. Their desire to take something home for display and food purposes has not changed. Satisfaction of the anglers' desire is obtained by party boat captains who turn to the rockfish holes.

Increased catches occurred throughout the fishery during the last few years (Figure 4). The Southern California sport fishery has increased disproportionately, accounting for the bulk of the landings.

Records reveal that the rockfish portion of the total sport catch increased from 10 to 15 percent before the war to 20 to 30 percent after the war. However, 1955 and 1956 rockfish sport catches spiraled upward to comprise 55 and 62 percent of the total sport take.

Even though rockfish are the most abundant group in the sport landings, each species in this group must be studied separately so that a firm approach can be made to biological and managerial problems.

1.3. GEAR

1.3.1. Commercial Fishing

Setlines and trawl nets have played an important part in the development of the commercial rockfish fishery off California. Setlines, used as early as 1875, were the most important gear before the introduction of the balloon trawl from the Pacific Northwest late in 1943. Rockfish taken by trawlers were incidental to the catch of flatfish before the balloon trawl was introduced.

1.3.2. Setlines

Setlines are fished as longlines or as drop lines, from relatively small boats. The longline consists of a number of units, each with 200 or 300 hooks that are baited and fastened together in a long string. This